

# Technical Success

**Technical success** is a procedural term used to describe whether a medical or surgical technique was performed as intended, without intraoperative failure or deviation from the planned intervention.

## □ Definition

Technical success refers to the completion of a planned medical or surgical procedure according to predefined technical criteria, without intra-procedural complications or deviations.

## □ Valid Usage

- Deployment of a stent in the intended anatomical location
- Successful embolization of a target vessel without device migration
- Completion of a tumor resection with intraoperative goals met

## ⚠ Misuse and Limitations

The term is often misused to **overstate clinical value**, especially in studies lacking follow-up or outcome data. Common issues include:

- Equating technical success with **clinical efficacy**
- Using vague or post hoc definitions (e.g., “achieving the desired outcome”)
- Ignoring patient-centered endpoints (e.g., survival, function, recurrence)

## □ Critical Perspective

A procedure may be “technically successful” but **clinically irrelevant or even harmful** if it does not improve patient outcomes or if long-term complications are ignored.

## □ Related Terms

- Clinical success
- Procedural efficacy
- Outcome-based endpoints
- Surrogate markers
- Unjustified enthusiasm

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