

# Vessel occlusion

**Vessel occlusion** refers to the blockage or **obstruction** of **blood vessels**, which can impede or completely stop the **flow** of **blood** through the affected **vessel**. This obstruction can occur in arteries or **veins** and may happen in various parts of the body. Vessel occlusion can have serious consequences because it limits the supply of oxygen and nutrients to the tissues supplied by the blocked vessel.

There are several possible causes of vessel occlusion, including:

**Atherosclerosis**: The buildup of plaque (composed of fat, cholesterol, and other substances) on the inner walls of arteries can lead to the narrowing or complete blockage of blood vessels.

**Embolism**: The movement of a blood clot (embolus) or other debris through the bloodstream, which can lodge in a smaller blood vessel and cause occlusion.

**Thrombosis**: The formation of a blood clot (thrombus) within a blood vessel, leading to blockage.

**Vasculitis**: Inflammation of blood vessel walls, which can lead to vessel narrowing or blockage.

**Trauma**: Physical injury or damage to blood vessels can result in occlusion.

The consequences of vessel occlusion depend on the location and size of the affected vessel. In the heart, it can lead to a heart attack; in the brain, it can cause a stroke; and in other organs, it can result in ischemia (insufficient blood supply) and tissue damage.

Treatment for vessel occlusion may involve medications to dissolve blood clots, surgical interventions, or procedures such as angioplasty and stent placement to open blocked vessels. Early detection and intervention are crucial to minimize damage and improve outcomes.

## Large vessel occlusion

see [Large vessel occlusion](#)

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