

Treatment Pros & Cons

General Information for All Patients with Coronary Artery Disease

IMPORTANT: No matter what treatment choice you make, *you will always be given a prescription for medications.* Take a look at each of the tables below to compare treatment options.

	CABG + MEDICATIONS	PCI + MEDICATIONS	MEDICATIONS ONLY
What are some potential benefits/pros?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compared to no treatment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Live longer Reduce chest pain Can treat multiple narrowed arteries at once 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compared to no treatment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Live longer Reduce chest pain Can treat multiple narrowed arteries at once Can sometimes be done at the same appointment/same time as angiography No major surgery or overnight hospital stay Can usually return to work and normal routine within 1 week of treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compared to no treatment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Live longer Reduce chest pain Helps manage cholesterol, blood clots, and blood pressure No in-hospital treatment/procedure Can usually return to work and normal routine right away Can fill prescription and begin treatment right away (no wait time) Can be as effective as PCI + medications in stable CAD¹
What are some potential risks/cons?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wait time: could have to wait weeks to months for treatment Involves general anesthesia (you will be unconscious and feel no pain) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wait time: could have to wait days to weeks for treatment Involves sedation (you will be conscious but feel no pain) Recovery time (about 1 day) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal costs: medications, travel time, time away from work Health risks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symptoms/ disease may worsen and you may need PCI or surgery later on

	CABG + MEDICATIONS	PCI + MEDICATIONS	MEDICATIONS ONLY
What are some potential risks/cons?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovery time (about 6 – 12 weeks) • Involves hospital stay (about 1 week) • Personal costs: home care, medications, travel time, time away from work • Health risks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stroke ○ Infection ○ Kidney problems ○ Heart attack ○ Short-term memory problems ○ Re-narrowing of arteries (may need another surgery or PCI) ○ Death ○ Side effects specific to medication type 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involves hospital stay (about 1 day) • Personal costs: medications, travel time, time away from work • Health risks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Blood clots ○ Re-narrowing of arteries (may need multiple treatments) ○ Kidney problems ○ Heart attack ○ Coronary artery damage ○ Side effects specific to medication type 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Heart attack ○ Stroke ○ Bleeding ○ Side effects specific to medication type

Reference:

¹<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa070829>