

Carotid Endarterectomy (CEA)



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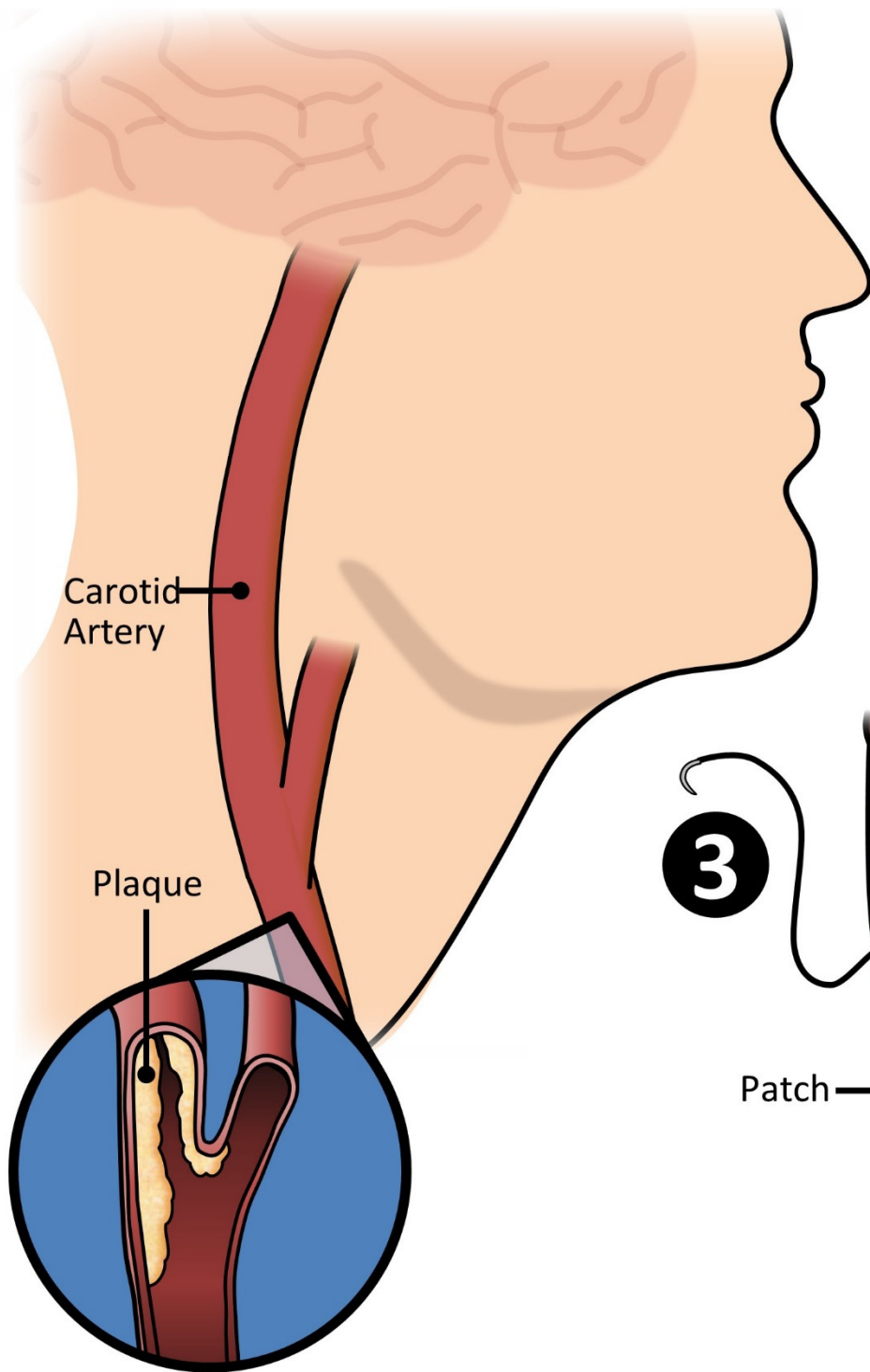


Penn Medicine

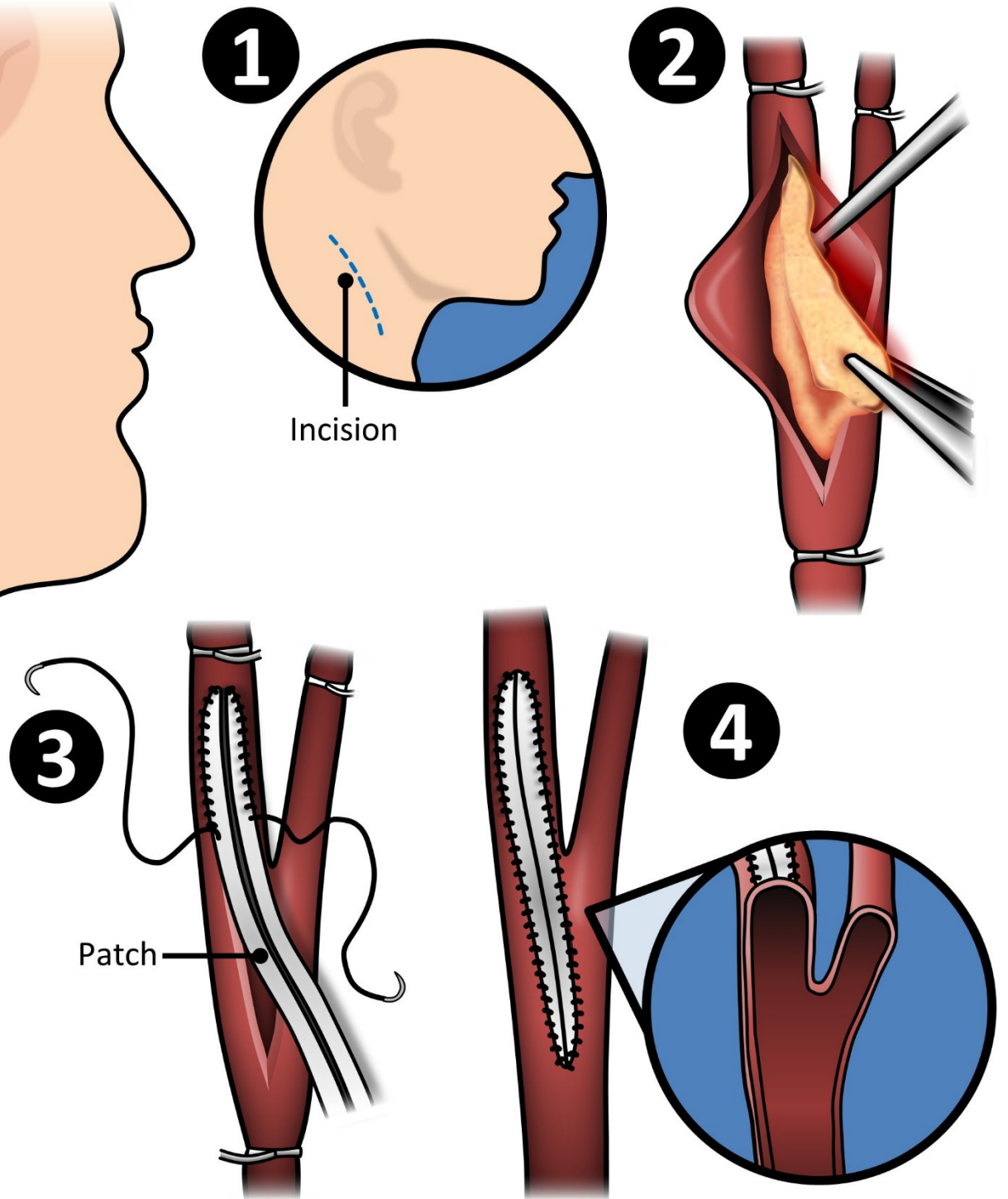
Contact Us: 215-615-7629

PENN VASCULAR SURGERY

Before Surgery



Surgery



Benefits

- Lowers the risk of stroke.

Risks

- Heart attack
- Stroke
- Bleeding at incision
- Infection
- Headache
- Nerve injury in neck leading to breathing problems
- Plaque can grow back
- Need for more surgery
- Death

Alternatives Care Options

Treating the Carotid Artery

- Placement of a stent across the blockage using minimally invasive surgery.

OR

- Medical therapy alone without surgery, to stop the plaque from growing

Not Treating the Carotid Artery

- You always have the choice to not have surgery.

Why we recommend carotid endarterectomy over alternatives



What is my recovery like?

What should I expect after surgery?

- Incision pain, lasting about 1 week.
- Feeling tired, usually 1-2 weeks.
- Move around slowly due to discomfort. You may need a nurse or physical therapist at home to help get your strength back.

How long will I stay in the hospital?

- Usually 1-2 days.

When will I return to:

- My “normal self”: 1-2 weeks.
- Driving: usually 1-2 weeks.
- Work: usually 1-2 weeks.

What do I need to do now that I have had surgery?

- Take the medications (aspirin, statin) that your doctor prescribed daily to prevent renarrowing of the carotid
- Do not smoke
- Follow-up with your physician regularly with ultrasound to look for renarrowing and to follow any narrowing on the other side