

# Angioplasty to open clogged arteries

Former President Bill Clinton, who had quadruple bypass surgery more than five years ago, has had a clogged heart artery opened after suffering discomfort in his chest. In an angioplasty procedure, two stents – tiny steel scaffolds – were placed inside the artery to help the flow of blood

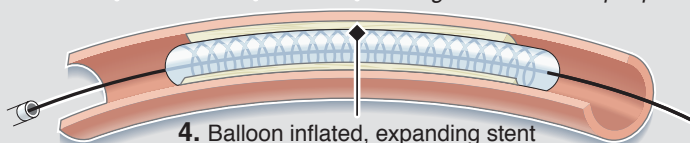
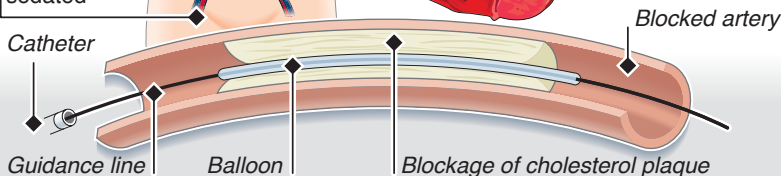
## 1. Narrow guidance

line and catheter – inserted through femoral artery in thigh – is slowly guided to heart

Procedure is usually done with patient awake but sedated

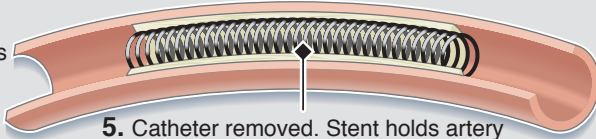
2. X-ray opaque dye injected to highlight arteries. Detailed x-ray image is created to show blockage

3. Catheter replaced with balloon catheter carrying stent



4. Balloon inflated, expanding stent and flattening blockage against artery wall

**Stent:**  
Stainless steel, alloy, or polymer scaffold



5. Catheter removed. Stent holds artery open. Within weeks tissue grows around stent