

Why Do Patients Prefer CVS

Coastal Vascular Specialists is one of the Tampa Bay Area's first and most advanced *OUTPATIENT* centers for Interventional Vascular Specialties

1. **No Over Night Hospital Stays** – Patients will return to the comfort of their own homes the same day of procedures
2. **Less Costly** - The services that CVS provides are much less expensive than the same procedures done in a hospital setting and provide a real financial savings. This could make a difference in hundreds of dollars for personal medical expenses from co-pays and deductibles
3. **State-Of-The-Art Equipment** - The interventional suite at CVS has equipment which is more advanced than most hospitals in the Tampa area and is a national show site for General Electric Corporation
4. **Special Care and Patient Education** - Patients receive extensive education from the medical staff to learn more about themselves and medical conditions
5. **Highly Qualified Physicians** – All of our doctors are board certified Vascular Interventional Radiologists. Dr. Jerry is the present Chairman of the Economics Committee SIR and has been providing a major role in training standards for physicians performing Interventional Radiology
6. **Less likely to become ill from infectious disease** – 5% of all hospital inpatients acquire an infection of some kind during their stay, according to the US Department of Health and Human Services.



Coastal Vascular Specialists is a division of Advanced Imaging and Interventional Institute (AI3) and is one of the first and most advanced Free-Standing Interventional Vascular Specialist centers in the Tampa Bay area. Coastal Vascular Specialists offers a full range of diagnostic imaging and minimally invasive outpatient procedures and is wholly owned and staffed by Board certified and fellowship trained radiologist,

Dr. Gerald Niedzwiecki M.D.



Coastal Vascular Specialists

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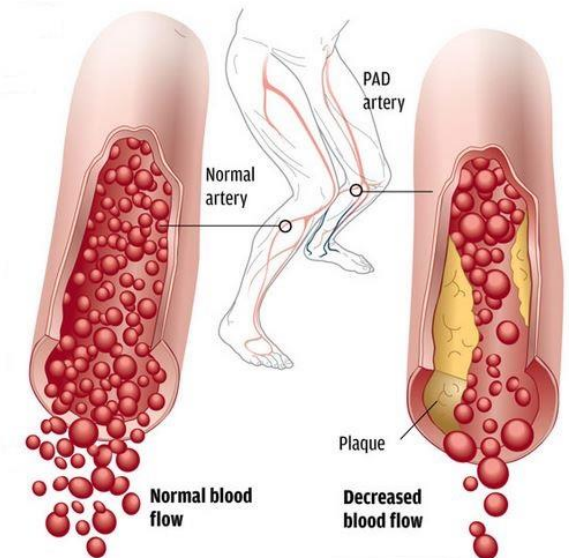


Gerald A. Niedzwiecki, M.D.

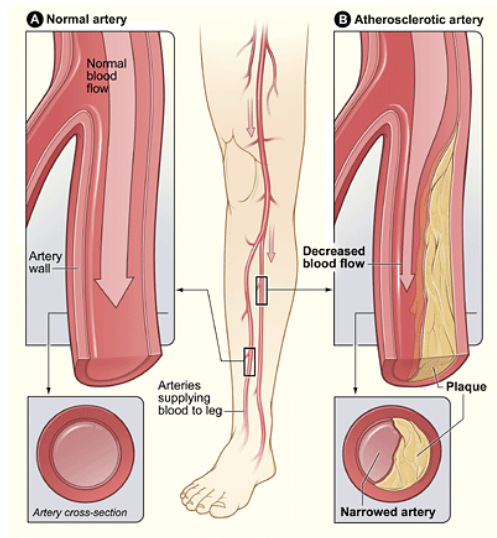
"Dr. Jerry"



Peripheral Arterial Disease



**Minimally Invasive
Treatment for Peripheral
Arterial Disease**



Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD), also known as peripheral vascular disease (PVD), is a very common condition affecting 20 percent of Americans age 65 and older. Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD) develops most commonly as a result of atherosclerosis, or hardening of the arteries, which occurs when cholesterol and scar tissue build up, forming a substance called plaque inside the arteries. This is a very serious condition. The clogged arteries cause decreased blood flow to the legs, which can result in pain when walking, and eventually gangrene and amputation. Because atherosclerosis is a systemic disease (that is, affects the body as a whole), individuals with Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD) are likely to have blocked arteries in other areas of the body. Thus, those with PAD are at increased risk for heart disease, aortic aneurysms and stroke.

Peripheral Arterial Disease is also a marker for diabetes, hypertension and other conditions. Peripheral Arterial Disease may also be caused by blood clots.

Symptoms The most common symptom of Peripheral Arterial Disease PAD is called intermittent claudication, which is painful cramping in the leg or hip that occurs when walking or exercising and typically disappears when the person stops the activity.

- Numbness, tingling and weakness in the lower legs and feet
- Burning or aching pain in feet or toes when resting
- Sore on leg or foot that won't heal
- Cold legs or feet
- Color change in skin of legs or feet
- Loss of hair no legs
- Have pain in the legs or feet that awakens you at night
- Many people simply live with their pain, assuming it is a normal part of aging, rather than reporting it to their doctor.

Prevalence PAD is a disease of the arteries that affects 10 million Americans. Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD) can happen to anyone, regardless of age, and is most commonly seen in men and women over age 50.

Risk Factors Those who are at highest risk for PAD are

- Over age 50
- Smokers
- Diabetic
- Overweight
- Inactive (and do not exercise)
- Have high blood pressure or high cholesterol or high lipid blood test
- Have a family history of vascular disease, such as PAD, aneurysm, heart attack or stroke

Diagnosis The most common test for PAD is the ankle-brachial index (ABI), a painless exam in which ultrasound is used to measure the ratio of blood pressure in the feet and arms. Based on the results of an ABI as well as one's symptoms and risk factors for PAD, a doctor can decide if further tests are needed. PAD also can be diagnosed noninvasively with an imaging technique called magnetic resonance angiography (MRA) or with computed tomography (CT) angiography.

Facts

- 90% of all amputations are lower extremity
- 77% Males
- 3 million amputees in United States, estimated
- #1 amputation cause is vascular disease