

Vascular vs. Endovascular Surgery - What is the Difference?

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The traditional way that we treat vascular patients was with a big open operation, whether it was replacing aneurysms or doing a bypass or fixing carotids. Now we've developed minimally invasive ways to treat them. Most bypasses and aneurysm repairs done the traditional way will take somewhere between six weeks and three months to recover from, whereas many of the endovascular procedures, the patients go home the same day and many of them are back doing their normal activity within a week or less.

I like to think of it like plumbing. If you are going to have a pipe burst in your house, you can go in, turn the water off, take the pipe, replace it, or now the new endovascular way would be to go in the basement with the water running and just use either tubes or balloons to open things up and get things running again. Because I have the ability to do both open and endovascular procedures, it allows me to really tailor the operation to the patient.

What we will do is look at it and say if this is something that I think can be done endovascular, we'll offer it to the patient. If this is something that needs to be done open in order to preserve blood flow to either the kidneys or to the bowels or other arteries like that, then that may be something that we would do as an open repair.