HOW DO STENTS TREAT CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE?

THE SCIENCE BEHIND THESE REMARKABLE MEDICAL INNOVATIONS

If you’ve been diagnosed with coronary artery disease, you’re not alone. It is the most common type of heart disease in the U.S. But take comfort in the knowledge that treatment options for coronary artery disease have evolved over the past four decades.

Coronary artery disease occurs when the arteries that supply blood to your heart become narrowed or blocked. The goal of treatment is to reopen the arteries. If lifestyle changes, like diet and exercise, and medications fail to improve blood flow, your doctor may talk to you about “minimally invasive” procedures, such as placement of a stent.

Here’s what you need to know about the three basic types of coronary stents and how they work.

**BARE METAL STENT**
This tiny metal mesh tube is inserted into the artery to help keep it open. It stays in the artery permanently.

**DRUG-ELUTING STENT**
This metal stent also stays in the artery permanently. It is coated with a medicine that minimizes tissue growth in the treated part of the artery (something that can occur as the body’s reaction to stent implantation).

**FULLY DISSOLVING STENT**
This is a new advancement in stents. A mesh tube made from biodegradable material, this stent is coated with medicine, and is designed to gradually dissolve as the artery heals, with proven results in safety and efficacy compared with current drug-eluting stents.

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Metal vs. Fully Dissolving Stents

If you have a metal stent, it will stay in your artery permanently. If, however, a naturally dissolving coronary stent was implanted, it will begin to dissolve over time into water and carbon dioxide—two elements that exist naturally in the body. It will completely disappear in approximately 3 years.

As the stent dissolves, new artery cells replace it. By the time the stent has completely dissolved, the treated segment of the artery is restored and can remain open without the extra support of the stent. The artery can flex and respond naturally, allowing you to look forward to a future with renewed possibilities.

Regardless of the type of coronary stent used, it’s important to make heart-healthy choices to help keep your heart—and your whole body—healthy and the arteries open.

To learn more about the latest advancements in treating coronary artery disease, visit absorbstent.com/learn