

- **Aortocoronary bypass**

Aortocoronary bypass is a surgical procedure used in treating *ischaemic heart disease* that is caused by the insufficient oxygenation of the heart muscle. The disease progresses due to the narrowing or even the complete obstruction of the *coronary arteries*, which are responsible for the “nourishing” of the heart, thus causing chest pain, i.e. angina pectoris.

Through aortocoronary bypass, we create a “bridge” that brings blood from another area (aortic artery) and transports it to the obstructed or narrowed coronary artery and beyond the injured artery. Thus, the coronary artery that receives the bypass will be normally irrigated with blood that will reach the injured myocardial territory. By using this technique, the patient’s heart will become normally vascularised again, the symptoms of the coronary disease (angina, lack of air) will disappear and the risk of acute coronary syndrome will be significantly lower.

Arterial or vein grafts harvested from the patient may be used for the aortocoronary bypass.

Arterial grafts are harder to harvest and have a more reduced availability. However, their use is extremely advantageous for the patient because they operate adequately for a longer period of time (long-term insurance) in comparison with vein grafts. We generally use multiple artery grafts, in diabetic patients as well, in order to optimise the long-term surgical results in our patients.