Your doctor thinks you may be helped by a procedure to treat the blocked arteries in your heart—a condition you have called coronary CTO (chronic total occlusion). This procedure is a type of PCI (percutaneous coronary intervention), and is called CTO-PCI.

What is coronary CTO?

If you have coronary CTO, this means that 1 or more of the arteries of your heart has been completely blocked for at least 3 months.

Treating CTO

There are now new ways to treat arteries that are completely blocked. The goal of CTO-PCI is to open up arteries that are 100 percent blocked. CTO-PCI is different from more traditional PCI treatments. In CTO-PCI, advanced tools and methods are used to re-open blocked arteries.

Why should I have CTO-PCI?

Coronary arteries are the blood vessels that send oxygen directly to your heart. When the arteries of your heart are blocked, your heart will not get the all oxygen it needs. If your doctor is able to open your blocked arteries with CTO-PCI, your symptoms should improve and you should feel better.

Your blocked arteries may cause you to have:

• chest pain
• shortness of breath
• very bad tiredness.

CTO-PCI may be a good choice for you if:

• your symptoms have not been helped by medicine alone, heart bypass surgery, or other stenting procedures
• you have no other options for treatment but want to feel better.

What happens during a CTO-PCI procedure?

Doctors will put tubes into your body through your upper legs, wrist, or arm. Your doctor will thread small instruments through the tubes and use these tools to open the blockage.

After the blockage is removed, your doctor will put a stent into your artery. A stent is a tube that expands inside an artery to keep it open so blood can flow through it. The stent will stay in your artery permanently.

Will CTO-PCI work for me?

The success rate of CTO-PCI can be as high as 90 percent.

• CTO-PCI is a very good way of treating the symptoms caused by blocked coronary arteries.
• People who have successful CTO-PCIs are likely to live longer than those who don’t (more data needs to be gathered to confirm this).