

## ■ Repeat Angioplasty Increases Risk Of Heart Problems

The September 15, 2005 issue of the American Journal of Cardiology reports that patients who have already had an angioplasty procedure to open a blocked heart vessel suffer a higher risk of heart problems in the future if they have a second angioplasty for a blockage at the same site.

The researchers used study data from patients who had angioplasties while taking part in a drug study. 7,065 had not had a previous angioplasty, 1281 were having a second angioplasty at the same site of a previous blockage and 1408 had had a previous angioplasty at another site.

One month after the procedure, there were no significant differences between any of the groups in the rates of heart problems such as need for further operations, heart attack or death.

By nine months, however, 34 percent of the patients who had a second angioplasty at the same blockage site experienced an adverse heart event. 19 percent of patients with no prior angioplasty and 24 percent of patients with blockage at a different site had problems after the procedure.