The VASCADE VCS works by allowing your physician to deliver a collagen patch at the puncture site in the tissue surrounding the vessel. The precise placement of the collagen is accomplished by placing a small collapsible mesh disc against the inside of the vessel wall, which temporarily stops the bleeding. Once this is accomplished, the collagen patch is released into the tissue surrounding the vessel. The small mesh disc is then collapsed and removed. The collagen patch quickly expands by absorbing the fluid in the surrounding tissue, providing a mechanical and physiological seal that stops the vessel from bleeding. The collagen patch naturally absorbs into the body, ultimately leaving nothing behind and allowing further access to the vessel if additional procedures are required.
Traditionally, a medical professional applied firm pressure to close the hole left by the sheath. This method, called Manual Compression, can cause discomfort due to prolonged pressure on your groin (typically 15-30 minutes) and can require up to 8 hours of bed rest.

Instead of Manual Compression, your doctor has decided to use the VASCADE Vascular Closure System (VCS) to close the hole after removing the sheath. VASCADE VCS delivers a collagen patch on top of the puncture site, facilitating rapid closure of the hole and allowing you to spend less time in bed and get back on your feet faster. The collagen patch degrades over time and is naturally absorbed into the body.

**About Your Procedure**

During your catheterization procedure, your physician placed a thin flexible tube, called a sheath, into your artery or vein near the groin. At the completion of the procedure, the sheath was removed, leaving a small hole in the artery or vein. To prevent bleeding, this hole must be closed.

**Caring for Your Puncture Site After You Get Home**

It is important to talk to your doctor about any limitations in your activities and how to take care of your puncture site following your procedure.

**HERE ARE SOME GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ALL PATIENTS POST PROCEDURE**

- You may shower 24 hours after your procedure. Gently clean the puncture site with soap and water.
  - Avoid taking baths or fully submerging the puncture site in water, if possible
- Keep the site clean and dry
- Reapply a clean dressing on the puncture site daily for approximately 5 days or until the site has healed

**WHEN TO CALL YOUR DOCTOR OR NURSE**

- Bleeding of any kind at the puncture site
- Persistent swelling or tenderness of the puncture site or the leg
- Significant pain at the puncture site or the leg
- Infection symptoms such as redness, warm to touch, drainage, fever, or chills

**DAILY ACTIVITIES**

- Do not drive the day of discharge
- Until the site is healed:
  - Avoid lifting heavy objects
  - Avoid wearing tight or restrictive clothing
  - If possible, avoid strenuous or vigorous activities and exercise (i.e. climbing stairs)
  - While coughing, sneezing, or during bowel movement, support the puncture site by applying gentle compression with the palm of your hand

**THE FOLLOWING ARE NORMAL OBSERVATIONS, THOUGH SHOULD BE MONITORED**

- Slight bump or groin tenderness, which may last up to one week
- Some bruising or discomfort