**2 studies show that  No touch technique of saphenous vein harvesting provides** significantly higher patency than the conventional technique and that was still comparable to that of the LITA.

**no touch technique of saphenous vein harvesting: Is great graft patency rate provided?**Papakonstantinou NA1, Baikoussis NG2, Goudevenos J3, Papadopoulos G4, Apostolakis E5.  
Author information  
Abstract  
Coronary artery bypass grafting surgery effectively relieves signs and symptoms of myocardial ischemia. The left internal thoracic artery (LITA) graft is the gold standard having 90-95% patency rate at 10 years, whereas only 50% of saphenous vein (SV) grafts are patent at 10 years. However, there is a novel "no touch" technique in order to harvest an SV complete with its cushion of surrounding tissue, thus maintaining its endothelium-intact. Significantly superior short- and long-term graft patency rates comparable to LITA grafts can be achieved. Consequently, the SV may be revived as an important conduit in coronary artery bypass surgery.

[J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg.](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26282605) 2015 Oct;150(4):880-8. doi: 10.1016/j.jtcvs.2015.07.027. Epub 2015 Jul 15.

**The no-touch saphenous vein for coronary artery bypass grafting maintains a patency, after 16 years, comparable to the left internal thoracic artery: A randomized trial.**

[Samano N](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Samano%20N%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=26282605)1, [Geijer H](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Geijer%20H%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=26282605" \t "_blank)2, [Liden M](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Liden%20M%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=26282605" \t "_blank)2, [Fremes S](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Fremes%20S%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=26282605" \t "_blank)3, [Bodin L](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Bodin%20L%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=26282605" \t "_blank)4, [Souza D](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Souza%20D%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=26282605)5.

[**Author information**](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26282605)

**Abstract**

**OBJECTIVES:**This study investigates whether the no-touch (NT) vein graft, at a mean time of 16 years, maintains a significantly higher patency rate than conventional (C) vein grafts and still has patency comparable to that of the left internal thoracic artery (LITA).

**METHODS:**A total of 156 patients accepted for coronary artery bypass grafting were randomly allocated to 1 of 3 groups. In the C group, the saphenous vein (SV) was stripped and distended. In the intermediate group, the SV was stripped but not distended. In the NT group, the SV was neither stripped nor distended, but rather harvested with a fat pedicle. This study is an angiographic follow-up of the C and NT groups, at a mean time of 16 years postoperatively.

**RESULTS:**Fifty-four patients were included (C group = 27; NT group = 27). In all, 72 and 75 vein grafts were completed in groups C and NT, respectively. Crude SV graft patency was 64% in the C group versus 83% in the NT group (P = .03), which was similar to the patency of the LITA (88%). The harvesting technique had a major impact on the patency with a hazard ratio for occlusion of 1.83 for the C group (P = .04).

**CONCLUSIONS:**Harvesting the SV with the NT technique conferred, at a mean time of 16 years, a significantly higher patency than the conventional technique that was still comparable to that of the LITA.

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