

Part 1: Symptom Checklist

Severe coronary artery disease symptoms

The symptoms of coronary artery disease can range from mild to severe:

- Angina**
Chest pain or discomfort; it can feel like squeezing or pressure, but usually goes away after a few minutes.
- Shortness of breath**
This could mean feeling short of breath when being active or at rest; feeling short of breath for a period of time may mean you are experiencing heart failure.
- Heart failure**
Heart failure happens when the heart fails to pump enough oxygen-rich blood throughout the body. Heart failure can cause fluid to build up in the lungs, which can cause shortness of breath.

Advanced Heart failure symptoms

- Low Ejection Fraction**
The amount of blood your heart is able to pump is less than 35%. Normal is 55-70%.
- Shortness of breath**
You may have trouble catching your breath when doing regular activities.
- Swelling**
Swelling in the legs, ankles, feet, stomach, and veins in the neck.
- Cough**
A cough could be a sign that fluid is building up in your lungs as a result of heart failure. The cough may worsen at night, or when lying down.
- Fluid in and around lungs**
This fluid build-up contributes to the shortness of breath you may experience.

Part 2: Doctor Discussion Guide

Consider using this to review your treatment options for severe coronary artery disease and/or advanced heart failure with your cardiologist

- 1 I am experiencing symptoms from my severe CAD. What can I do to improve my symptoms?
- 2 Am I considered a high risk patient for surgery?
- 3 Am I considered high risk for PCI?
- 4 If I am considered high risk, is Protected PCI an appropriate option for me?
- 5 Do you recommend the use of Impella 2.5 for cardiac support during my PCI?
- 6 Can you recommend an interventional cardiologist that offers Protected PCI?
- 7 How will my recovery differ with Protected PCI?