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STEAL SYNDROME PATIENT EDUCATION

Decreased blood flow to your hand on the arm of your fistula/graft is called steal syndrome. If this occurs, it usually happens shortly after surgery.

WHAT ARE SYMPTOMS OF STEAL SYNDROME:

- Numbness in fingers and/or hands.
- Cold fingers and/or hands.
- Weakness of hand strength.
- Discoloration of fingertips (blue/pink).
- Pain in hand.

INTERVENTION:

- If symptoms are severe, then patient should be urgently referred to the surgeon.

 Symptoms left untreated could lead to tissue death (gangrene) which may lead to the loss of fingers.

 The fistula/graft may need to be ligated (closed) in this case.
- If symptoms are mild, then patient can be referred to access center for arteriogram (pictures of arteries)

The access center will give further recommendations.