

ARTERIOSCLEROSIS

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Normal blood vessels A= artery V= vein



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Artery (A) versus vein (V)





ARTERIOSCLEROSIS

- Arteriosclerosis ="hardening of the arteries"
- <u>arterial</u> wall thickening and loss of elasticity.
- <u>Three</u> patterns are recognized, with different clinical and pathologic consequences:

1-Arteriolosclerosis

- affects small arteries and arterioles
- associated with hypertension and/or diabetes mellitus





<u>sclerosis</u>

- calcific deposits in muscular arteries
- typically in persons > age 50
- radiographically visible (x-rays, etc...)
- palpable vessels
- do not encroach on vessel lumen and are usually not clinically significant

2-Mönckeberg medial calcific

<u>sclerosis</u>





- Greek word "gruel" ,"hardening,"
- most frequent and clinicallyimportant pattern ofarteriosclerosis
- characterized by intimal
 lesions = *atheromas* (a.k.a.
 atherosclerotic plaques)
- atheromatous plaque =
 raised lesion with a core of
 lipid (cholesterol and
 cholesterol esters) covered
 by a firm, white fibrous cap

Atherosclerosis-Pathogenesis

- not fully understood
- ? inflammatory process in endothelial cells of vessel wall associated with retained <u>low-</u> <u>density lipoprotein</u> (LDL) particles → ? a cause, an effect, or both, of underlying inflammatory process

The major components of a well-developed intimal atheromatous plaque



FIBROUS CAP

(smooth muscle cells, macrophages, foam cells, lymphocytes, collagen, elastin, proteoglycans, neovascularization)

NECROTIC CENTER (cell debris, cholesterol crystals, foam cells, calcium)

MEDIA

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Atheromatous plaque



Formation of atheromatous plaque



Formation of atheromatous plaque





Atherosclerosis: progression



Vulnerable vs stable plaque



Risk Factors for Atherosclerosis

	Lesser, Uncertain, or Non-quantitated
Major Risks	Risks
Non-modifiable (non-controllable)	Obsesity
Increasing age	Physical inactivity
Male gender	Stress ("type A personality)
Family history	Postmenopausal estrogen deficiency
Genetic abnormalities	High carbohydrate intake
	Lipoprotein(a)
Potentially modifiable (Controllable)	Hardened (trans)unsaturated fat intake
Hyperlipidemia	
Hypertension	Chlamydia pneumoniae infection
Cigarette smoking	
Diabetes	
C-reactive protein (inflammation)	

<u>1-age</u>

- ages 40 to 60, incidence of MI in men increases 5 x
- Death rates from IHD rise with each decade

<u>2-Gender</u>

- Premenopausal* → protected against atherosclerosis compared with age-matched men.
- After menopause→ incidence of atherosclerosisrelated diseases increases

• * unless they are otherwise predisposed by diabetes, hyperlipidemia, or severe hypertension.



- familial predisposition is multifactorial.
- Either :
- **<u>1- familial clustering</u>** of other risk factors
- e.g. HTN or DM

or:

- 2- well-defined genetic derangements in lipoprotein metabolism
- e.g. familial hypercholesterolemia

Additional Risk Factors for atherosclerosis

- 20% of cardiovascular events occur in the *absence of identifiable risk factors:*
- Hyperhomocystinemia
- Metabolic syndrome
- Lipoprotein a levels
- Factors Affecting Hemostasis (*Elevated levels of procoagulants....*)
- Others:

-lack of exercise

-competitive, stressful lifestyle ("type A" personality)

-obesity

-High carbohydrate intake