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## Coronary Artery Disease

**Also called:** CAD, Coronary arteriosclerosis, Coronary atherosclerosis, Coronary heart disease


Coronary artery disease (CAD) is the most common type of heart disease. It is the leading cause of death in the United States in both men and women.

CAD happens when the arteries that supply blood to heart muscle become hardened and narrowed. This is due to the buildup of cholesterol [<https://medlineplus.gov/cholesterol.html>] and other material, called plaque, on their inner walls. This buildup is called atherosclerosis [<https://medlineplus.gov/atherosclerosis.html>]. As it grows, less blood can flow through the arteries. As a result, the heart muscle can't get the blood or oxygen it needs. This can lead to chest pain (angina [<https://medlineplus.gov/angina.html>]) or a heart attack [<https://medlineplus.gov/heartattack.html>]. Most heart attacks happen when a blood clot [<https://medlineplus.gov/bloodclots.html>] suddenly cuts off the hearts' blood supply, causing permanent heart damage.



Over time, CAD can also weaken the heart muscle and contribute to heart failure [<https://medlineplus.gov/heartfailure.html>] and arrhythmias [<https://medlineplus.gov/arrhythmia.html>]. Heart failure means the heart can't pump blood well to the rest of the body. Arrhythmias are changes in the normal beating rhythm of the heart.

*NIH: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute*


### Start Here

- Coronary Artery Disease (CAD) [<https://familydoctor.org/condition/coronary-artery-disease-cad/?adfree=true>]  
(American Academy of Family Physicians)  
Also in Spanish [<https://es.familydoctor.org/condicion/enfermedad-de-las-arterias-coronarias-es/?adfree=true>]
- Coronary Artery Disease - Coronary Heart Disease [<https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/consumer-healthcare/what-is-cardiovascular-disease/coronary-artery-disease>] (American Heart Association)
- What Is Coronary Heart Disease? [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/coronary-heart-disease>]  
 (National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/es/salud/cardiopatia-coronaria>]




### Diagnosis and Tests

- Coronary CTA (Computed Tomography Angiography) [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/angiocorocct>]  
(American College of Radiology; Radiological Society of North America)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/es/info/angiocorocct>]
- Heart Health Tests: MedlinePlus Health Topic [<https://medlineplus.gov/hearthealthtests.html>]  (National Library of Medicine)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/hearthealthtests.html>]
- Intravascular Ultrasound [<https://www.texasheart.org/heart-health/heart-information-center/topics/intravascular-ultrasound/>]  
(Texas Heart Institute)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.texasheart.org/heart-health/heart-information-center/topics/ultrasonido-intravascular/>]
- Lipoprotein (a) Blood Test [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/lipoprotein-a-blood-test/>]  (National Library of Medicine)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/analisis-de-sangre-de-lipoproteina-a/>]


# Prevention and Risk Factors

- How to Prevent Heart Disease: MedlinePlus Health Topic [<https://medlineplus.gov/howtopreventheartdisease.html>]  (National Library of Medicine)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/howtopreventheartdisease.html>]

# Treatments and Therapies

- Angioplasty: MedlinePlus Health Topic [<https://medlineplus.gov/angioplasty.html>]  (National Library of Medicine)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/angioplasty.html>]
- Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery: MedlinePlus Health Topic [<https://medlineplus.gov/coronaryarterybypasssurgery.html>]  (National Library of Medicine)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/coronaryarterybypasssurgery.html>]
- Coronary Artery Disease: Angioplasty or Bypass Surgery? [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/coronary-artery-disease/expert-answers/coronary-artery-disease/FAQ-20058302?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/coronary-artery-disease/expert-answers/coronary-artery-disease/faq-20058302?p=1>]
- Heart Procedures and Surgeries [<https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/heart-attack/treatment-of-a-heart-attack/cardiac-procedures-and-surgeries>] (American Heart Association)
- What Are Stents? [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/stents>]  (National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/es/salud/endoprotesis>]

# Living With

- Cardiac Rehabilitation: MedlinePlus Health Topic [<https://medlineplus.gov/cardiacrehabilitation.html>]  (National Library of Medicine)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/cardiacrehabilitation.html>]


# Related Issues

- Drug-Eluting Stents: Do They Increase Heart Attack Risk? [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/coronary-artery-disease/in-depth/drug-eluting-stents/ART-20044911?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/coronary-artery-disease/in-depth/drug-eluting-stents/art-20044911?p=1>]
- Vulnerable Plaque [<https://www.texasheart.org/heart-health/heart-information-center/topics/vulnerable-plaque/>] (Texas Heart Institute)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.texasheart.org/heart-health/heart-information-center/topics/placa-vulnerable/>]


# Specifics

- Acute Coronary Syndrome [<https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/heart-attack/about-heart-attacks/acute-coronary-syndrome>] (American Heart Association)
- Myocardial Ischemia [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/myocardial-ischemia/symptoms-causes/syc-20375417?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/myocardial-ischemia/symptoms-causes/syc-20375417?p=1>]
- What Is Atherosclerosis? [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/atherosclerosis>]  (National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/es/salud/aterosclerosis>]

# Genetics

- Werner syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/werner-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)

# Videos and Tutorials

- Coronary artery disease [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/anatomyvideos/000037.htm>]  (Medical Encyclopedia)

Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/anatomyvideos/000037.htm>]


## Test Your Knowledge

- Coronary Artery Disease Quiz [[https://medlineplus.gov/ency/quiz/007115\\_34.htm](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/quiz/007115_34.htm)] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [[https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/quiz/007115\\_117.htm](https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/quiz/007115_117.htm)]

## Statistics and Research

- Linking Air Pollution and Heart Disease [<https://www.epa.gov/sciencematters/linking-air-pollution-and-heart-disease>]  
(Environmental Protection Agency)

## Clinical Trials


- ClinicalTrials.gov: Coronary Artery Disease [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Coronary+Artery+Disease%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

## Journal Articles


### References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Randomized Comparison of Fractional Flow Reserve and Instantaneous Wave Free Ratio... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40669962>]
- Article: Firesorb bioresorbable scaffold for de novo coronary artery disease: 1-year clinical... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40629329>]
- Article: Association of Subclinical Liver Fibrosis With Death in Patients With Coronary... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40576034>]
- Coronary Artery Disease -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Coronary+Artery+Disease%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22+%5Bedat%5D+AND+%28patient+education+handout%5Bpt%5D+OR+guideline%5Bpt%5D+OR+clinical+trial%5Bpt%5D%29++NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]


## Reference Desk

- Coronary Arteries [<https://www.texasheart.org/heart-health/heart-information-center/topics/the-coronary-arteries/>]  
(Texas Heart Institute)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.texasheart.org/heart-health/heart-information-center/topics/las-arterias-coronarias/>]
- Heart Information Center [<https://www.texasheart.org/heart-health/heart-information-center/>] (Texas Heart Institute)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.texasheart.org/heart-health/heart-information-center/topics/glosario-de-terminologia-cardiovascular/>]
- How the Heart Works [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/heart>]  (National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/es/salud/corazon>]

## Find an Expert

- American Heart Association [<https://www.heart.org/en/>]
- National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/>] 

## Women

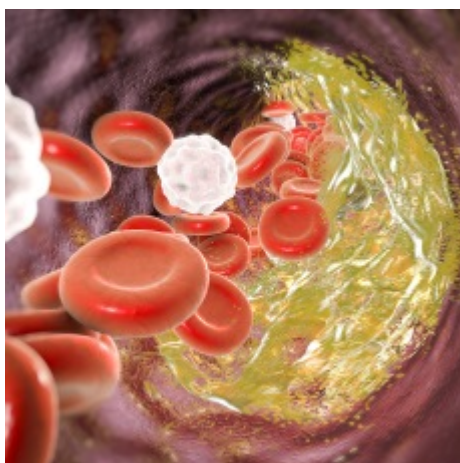
- Heart Disease in Women: MedlinePlus Health Topic [<https://medlineplus.gov/heartdiseaseinwomen.html>]  (National Library of Medicine)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/heartdiseaseinwomen.html>]

# Older Adults

- Coronary Artery Disease (Heart Attack) [<https://www.healthinaging.org/a-z-topic/coronary-artery-disease-heart-attack>] (American Geriatrics Society)

## Patient Handouts

- Acute coronary syndrome [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007639.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/007639.htm>]
- Angioplasty and stent - heart - discharge [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000091.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000091.htm>]
- Angioplasty and stent placement - heart [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007473.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/007473.htm>]
- Coronary angiography [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003876.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003876.htm>]
- Coronary artery spasm [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000159.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000159.htm>]
- Coronary heart disease [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007115.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/007115.htm>]



## MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

- Acute coronary syndrome [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007639.htm>]
- Angioplasty and stent - heart - discharge [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000091.htm>]
- Angioplasty and stent placement - heart [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007473.htm>]
- Atherosclerosis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000171.htm>]
- Coronary artery disease [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/anatomyvideos/000037.htm>]
- Coronary artery spasm [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000159.htm>]
- Coronary heart disease [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007115.htm>]
- Heart PET scan [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007343.htm>]
- Hypertensive heart disease [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000163.htm>]
- Left heart catheterization [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003871.htm>]
- Living with heart disease and angina [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000576.htm>]
- Magnetic resonance angiography [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007269.htm>]
- Nuclear stress test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007201.htm>]

Stent [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002303.htm>]

VLDL test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003494.htm>]

## Related Health Topics

Angina [<https://medlineplus.gov/angina.html>]

Atherosclerosis [<https://medlineplus.gov/atherosclerosis.html>]

Cardiac Rehabilitation [<https://medlineplus.gov/cardiacrehabilitation.html>]

Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery [<https://medlineplus.gov/coronaryarterybypasssurgery.html>]

Heart Attack [<https://medlineplus.gov/heartattack.html>]

Heart Diseases [<https://medlineplus.gov/heartdiseases.html>]

Heart Health Tests [<https://medlineplus.gov/hearthealthtests.html>]

## National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Coronary Artery Disease* is the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute [<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/>]

## Other Languages

Find health information in languages other than English [<https://medlineplus.gov/languages/coronaryarterydisease.html>] on *Coronary Artery Disease*

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