Early Prevention of Cardiovascular Complications in Prediabetes

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51st Turkish National Diabetes Congress Antalya, 23 April 2015

Diseases of The Heart Charles K Friedberg MD, WB Saunders Co. Philadelphia, 1949

"The proper control of *diabetes* is obviously desirable even though there is *uncertainty* as to whether coronary artery disease is more frequent or severe in the uncontrolled diabetic"

Overall Mortality in diabetics vs. non-diabetics

Population based age adjusted mortality 1992-1996



(Tierny et al Am J Public Health 2001; 91:84)

Mortality reasons in diabetes

Population based mortality from North Dakota



Risk of Cardiovascular Events in *Diabetics*. Framingham Study

Age-adjusted	Age-adjusted
Biennial Rate	<u>Risk Ratio</u>

<u>Cardiovascular Event</u>	<u>Men</u> V	<u>Vomen</u>	<u>Men</u> V	Vomen
Coronary Disease	39	21	1.5**	2.2***
Stroke	15	6	2.9***	2.6***
Peripheral Artery Dis.	18	18	3.4***	6.4***
Cardiac Failure	23	21	4.4***	7.8***
All CVD Events	76	65	2.2***	3.7***

Subjects 35-64; 36-year Follow-up **P<.001,***P<.0001

Risk for CHD Increases with the Number of Risk Factors: NHANES/NHEFS



*Cumulative 21 yr. incidence *1971-1992.

Yusuf HR, et al. *Prev Med*. 1998;27:1-9.

Does T2D Carry a CVD Mortality Risk Equivalent? US Men and Women Ages 30-74

(age, gender, and risk-factor adjusted) NHANES II Follow-Up (n=6255) (Malik and Wong, et al., Circulation 2004; 110: 1245-1250) 7 *** 6 *** 5 **Relative Risk** *** None 4 MetS *** *** *** **Diabetes** 3 *** *** 2 **CVD+Diabetes** 1 0 CHD Mortality CVD Mortality Total Mortality

* p<.05, ** p<.01, **** p<.0001 compared to none

Glucose perturbations and cardiovascular mortality Australian Diabetes, Obesity and Lifestyle Study

1999 – 2000 n=10 248 median follow up 5.2 years



⁽Barr et al Circulation 2007; 116:151)

PREDIABETES

A Synthesis

By W. P. U. JACKSON, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P., D.C.H.

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What It Is

Before you are born you are pre-natal, yet already in existence; before you are diabetic you are prediabetic—a state which is not normality nor yet a disease, but certainly there. This term 'Prediabetes' thus connotes the state of a person during the period before he or she becomes plainly and clinically diabetic, in which, however, there is a latent abnormality which may show itself under certain specific conditions.

Cardiovascular Disease by Blood Glucose Status

Relation to fasting and postprandial glycemia in patients without diabetes



Adjusted for age, gender and region

(The DECODE study group Lancet 1999; 354:617)

Study Relative % ID risk (95% CI) Weight Barzilay 1999 1.28 (1.02, 1.61) 8.42 DECODE 2001: Men 1.03 (0.85, 1.25) 11.80 DECODE 2001: Women 1.53 (0.81, 2.90) 1.08 Saydah 2001 0.65 (0.31, 1.34) 0.82 Henry 2002 1.44 (1.09, 1.90) 5.68 Lu 2003 0.75 (0.41, 1.36) 1.22 Nakagami 2004 1.05 (0.67, 1.65) 2.16 Nakanishi 2004 1.31 (0.51, 3.34) 0.50 Hunt 2004 1.62 (0.50, 5.25) 0.32 McNeill 2005: Men 1.13 (0.91, 1.39) 9.78 McNeill 2005: Women 0.99 (0.69, 1.42) 3.37 Wild 2005 1.06 (0.72, 1.57) 2.89 Palmieri 2006 1.04 (0.78, 1.39) 5.26 Wang 2007: Men 1.39 (0.97, 2.00) 3.35 Wang 2007: Women 1.32 (0.85, 2.04) 2.29 Wang 2007 1.25 (0.82, 1.92) 2.42 Nilsson 2007 1.39 (1.07, 1.81) 6.35 Barr 2007 2.50 (1.20, 5.10) 0.84 Levitzky 2008: Men 1.00 (0.70, 1.50) 3.02 Levitzky 2008: Women 2.10 (1.20, 3.60) 1.45 Wannamethee 2008 1.18 (1.03, 1.35) 23.98 Chien 2008 1.87 (1.28, 2.75) 3.00 Overall (I-squared = 28.7%, p = 0.104) 1.20 (1.12, 1.28) 100.00

1.5

2 2.5

IFG* as a Risk Factor for CVD– Systematic Review

*IFG=110-125mg/dl

.25

.5

Ford ES et al: J Am Coll Cardiol 2010; 55: 1310

5.5

IFG* as a Risk Factor for CVD–Systematic Review



*IFG=100-125mg/dl

Ford ES et al: J Am Coll Cardiol 2010; 55: 1310

IGT as Risk Factor for CVD–Systematic Review

Study	Relative	%
ID	risk (95% CI)	Weight
DECODE 2001: Men*	1.34 (1.12, 1.60)	40.29
DECODE 2001: Women*	1.28 (0.88, 1.86)	9.15
Saydah 2001		5.40
Nakagami 2004*	1.27 (0.86, 1.88)	8.38
Wild 2005	1.14 (0.75, 1.72)	7.44
Pankow 2007	0.83 (0.59, 1.17)	10.94
Wang 2007*	1.20 (0.77, 1.86)	6.59
Barr 2007	1.20 (0.70, 2.20)	3.91
Chien 2008*	1.20 (0.80, 1.79)	7.90
Overall (I-squared = 0.0%, p = 0.512)	1.20 (1.07, 1.34)	100.00

Ford ES et al: J Am Coll Cardiol 2010; 55: 1310

IFG+ITG as Risk Factor for CVD. Systematic Review



Ford ES et al: J Am Coll Cardiol 2010; 55: 1310

Dysglycaemia as Risk Factor for CVD



Laakso M: Diabetes Care 2010;33:444

Do we see all of us the same when looking at the Metabolic Syndrome?



How many legs does this elephant have?

Metabolic Syndrome as Risk Factor of CVD

CVD in 2.559 subjects 25-64 years free of CVD at baseline Follow-up 7.4 years

	OR (95%CI) of CVD					
	Males Females					
2+RF & 10-	11.9	4.4				
20% risk*	(6.0-23.6)	(0.5-35.4)				
MSxIDF	3.9 (2.1-7.2)	2.0 (1.0-4.1)				
MSXATPIII	3.6 (2.0-6.7)	2.4 (1.1-5.1)				
MSxWHO	2.5 (1.3-4.8)	2.2 (0,9-4.9)				

*x Framingham

Metabolic Syndrome as Risk Factor of CVD

CVD in 2.559 subjects 25-64 years free of CVD at baseline Follow-up 7.4 years

	OR (95%CI) of CVD						
	Males <mark>≥45year</mark>	Females ≥55year					
2+FR & 10-	11.9	4.4					
20% risk*	(6.0-23.6)	(0.5-35.4)					
MSxIDF	<mark>9.6</mark> (5.1-17.9)	4.4 (1.9-10.1)					
MSXATPIII	9.3 (4.9-17.7)	5.0 (2.1-12.0)					
MSxWHO	6.5 (3.3-12.7)	5.9 (2.3-15)					

*x Framingham

MetS as Risk Factor of CVD

Study	F-UP.	Dx	Outcome RR/HR 10-y (M/F) %M		RR/HR (M/F)			
Framing- ham 2005	8	ATP III	CHD	2.54* ns		12	3.4	
ARIC 2005	11	ATP III	CHD	2.05* (1.59-2.64)	2.05* 1.46* (1.23-1.74)		5.8	
MRFIT	10	ATP	Mortal.	1.21* (1.13-1.29)		12.4	interr	
2006	10	III	CV Mort.	1.49* (1.35-1.64)		6.7	nediat	
Uppsala 20 ATP		ATP	Mortal.	1.36* (1.17-1.58)		15.5	e (10-	
2006	50	III	CV Mort.	1.59* (1.29-1.95)		7.2	20%)	

*Adjusted

P.Aschner, 2011

CVD Risk in adults 25-34 years



CVD Risk in adults >25-30 years



CVD Risk in adults >25-30 years



P.Aschner 2012

When does the clock start ticking for cardiovascular disease?

There is now convincing evidence that cardiovascular disease begins before the onset of clinical diabetes.

However, it is not known which specific element of the diabetic state is responsible for the increase in cardiovascular risk.



None of these factors alone can account for the excess risk of cardiovascular disease.

Insulin resistance

- Insulin resistance is an underlying feature of both the metabolic syndrome and type 2 diabetes.
- It is associated with abnormalities in both glucose and lipid metabolism.
- These abnormalities are associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease and are often present before the onset of type 2 diabetes.

Hyperinsulinemia

The San Antonio Heart Study first and many others later have linked hyperinsulinemia with incident diabetes, hypertension and dyslipidemia.

However, hyperinsulinemia is the physiologic result of insulin resistance and insulin secretion.

Furthermore, hyperinsulinemia may have pathophysiologic effects distinct from insulin resistance itself.

The main hypothesis in the European RISC Study



At baseline, information is obtained on genetic factors and relevant environmental factors and insulin resistance is measured.

At follow up, changes in carotid atherosclerosis are related to insulin resistance and/or clinical phenotype.

Insulin Resistance, Hyperinsulinemia, BMI, Waist Circumference and Cardiovascular Risk Score

"Risk Score" (upper quartile)*



* Adjusted by centre

Odds ratio (95%CI)

Baseline common carotid artery-intima-media thickness (CCA-IMT) by tertiles of insulin sensitivity and fasting plasma glucose



Michaela Kozakova et al. Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol. 2013;33:1409-1417



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Three-year CCA-IMT changes were not associated with any cardio-metabolic risk factor in the RISC Study



Quantose as early marker of Insulin Resistance

Clinical Outcome Data

1. Quantose IR identifies insulin resistant individuals within a healthy A1C range.⁵



2. Quantose IR tracked improvement in insulin sensitivity where A1C did not in the ACT NOW study.⁶



上医医末病之病 中医医将病之病 下医医已病之病 ~ 黄帝:内经~ Superior doctors prevent the disease. Mediocre doctors treat the disease before evident. Inferior doctors treat the full-blown disease. --Huang Dee: Nai-Ching (2600 BC First Chinese Medical Text)

Approaches to Primary and Secondary Prevention of CVD

- Primary prevention involves prevention of onset of disease in persons without symptoms.
- Primordial prevention involves the prevention of risk factors causative o the disease, thereby reducing the likelihood of development of the disease.
- Secondary prevention refers to the prevention of death or recurrence of disease in those who are already symptomatic

Population vs. High-Risk Approach

- Risk factors, such as fasting and postprandial blood glucose, have a wide bell-shaped distribution, often with a "tail" of high values.
- The "high-risk approach" involves identification and intensive treatment of those at the high end of the "tail", often at greatest risk of CVD, reducing levels to "normal".
- But most cases of CVD do not occur among the highest levels of a given risk factor, and in fact, occur among those in the "average" risk group.
- Significant reduction in the population burden of CVD can occur only from a "population approach" shifting the entire population distribution to lower levels.

2h-Blood Glucose and Mortality. DECODE STUDY To Whom Intervene?



Decode Group. Diab Care 2003; 26:688

Prevention of Type 2 Diabetes by Lifestyle Management: The Evidence



Cummulative CVD Mortality in DPP Study





That is the question

Dr. Shakespeare; Hamlet, Chapt. 3





ADA Consensus Panel on IFG and IGT;

Reviews/Commentaries/ADA Statements CONSINSUS STATEMENT

Impaired Fasting Glucose and Impaired Glucose Tolerance

ROBERT R. HENRY, MD

RICHARD PRATLEY, MD⁶

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Implications for care

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ype 2 diabetes is now epidemic. In the U.S., there has been a 61% increase in incidence between 1990 and 2001 (1). There are currently 1.5 million new cases per year, and the prevalence in 2005 states eventually develop diabetes (4-10). was almost 21 million (2). The epidemic has During the pre-dathetic state, the risk of a affected developed and developing countries alike, and the worldwide prevalence of diabetes is projected to increase dramatically by 2025 (3). The increase in type 2 have resulted in overweight, obesity, and decreased physical activity levels. These environmental changes, superimposed on grnetic predisposition, increase insulinresistance, which, in concert with progressive B-cell failure, results in rising glycemia in the nondiabetic range. In addition to the risk for diabetes, insulin resistance and imnained insulin secretion are accompanied by a host of major cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk factors including hypertension and dyslipidemia. Further reduction in in- ments that are difficult and costly to implesulin secretion over time results in increasdiabetes, which in turn is associated with and 2006, eight major clinical trials exam- questions. the development of microvascular and car- ined whether lifestyle or pharmacologic indiovascular complications.

abnormalities that precede diabetes, im-high risk by virtue of having IFG and/or IGT paired fasting glucose (IFG) and impaired (4,5,23-28). The study populations often

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Panel disclosures can be found on p. 757.

Abbreviations: CVD, cardiovarcular ciscase; DPP, Diabros Provention Program, DREAM, Diabetes Reduction Assessment with Ramipul and Resignization Medication, TPG, foring planua glucose; IGT, impaired glucose tolerance; IFG, impaired fasting glucese; NGT, normal glucose tolerance; OGTT, ceal ducose tolemare assi

A table elsewhere in this issue shows conventional and Système International (SI) units and conversion factors for many substance

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DIMETES CARL, VOLUME 30, NUMBER 3, MARCH 2007

glucose telerance (IGT), to diabetes may take many years, however, current estimates indicate that most individuals (perhaps up to 70%) with these pre-diabetic CVD event is modestly increased (11-22). With the development of diabetes, howtality, are related to its duration, chronic level of glycemia, and other risk factors.

mic and blood pressure control to reduce the long-term complications of diabetes, the public health burden of the disease remains coupled with complex treatment requirement, make the prevention of diabetes a terventions would prevent or delay the The transition from the early metabolic development of diabetes in populations at

had other recognized risk factors for diabetes including obesity, a prior history of gestational diabetes, or a positive family history of diabetes. All of these trials demonstrated reductions in the development of diabetes. of 25-60% over the period of follow-up. The largest reductions (~60%) were accomplished with lifestyle interventions aimed at weight loss and increasing physical activity and with thiazolidinediones (4.5,24,25,27). Lesser degrees of reduction (25-30%) have been achieved with other drugs (5.23.24.28)

The availability of interventions that ever, there is a large increase in risk for have been shown to decrease the develop-CVD, as well as for long-term complications ment of diabetes has stimulated considerdiabetes is related to lifestyle changes that affecting the eyes, kidneys, and nervous sys- ation whether such interventions should be tem. The complications of diabetes, which recommended and implemented, in whom, are the cause of major morbidity and mor- and under what circumstances. To address these issues, the American Diabetes Association convened a consensus development Although clinical trials have demon- conference on 16-18 October 2006 focusstrated the effectiveness of intensive glyce- ing on the pre-diabetic states of IFG and IGT. Following the presentations of invited speakers and in-depth discussions, a sevenmember panel of expens in diabetes, endoenormous. The magnitude of the epidemic, crinology, and metabolism developed this consensus position based on the questions below. The expert members were also asked to note where additional information or ing glycemia and the development of critical public health goal. Between 1997 studies would be necessary to answer these

QUESTION 1: What are IFG and IGT, and what is their

natural history? - How much does IFG, IGT, or the combination of both conditions increase the risk for subsequent development of diabetes? Does IFG and/or IGT increase the development of cardiovascular disease? If so, are the effects of IFG and/or IGT independent of associated known cardiovascular risk factors including the subsequent development of diabetes?

IFG and IGT tenresent intermediate states of abnormal glucose regulation that exist between normal glucose homeostasis and diabetes. IFG is now defined by an elevated fasting plasma glucose (FPG) concentration (≥100 and <126 ma/dl) (29) IGT is defined by an elevated 2-h plasma glucose concentration (≥140 and

Table 2—Treatment recommendation for i	ndividuals with IFG, IGT, or both
Population	Treatment
IFG or IGT	Lifestyle modification (i.e., 5–10% weight loss and moderate intensity physical activity ~30 min/day)
 Individuals with IFG and IGT and any of the following: <60 years of age BMI ≥35 kg/m² Family history of diabetes in first-degree relatives Elevated triglycerides Reduced HDL cholesterol Hypertension A1C >6.0% 	Lifestyle modification (as above) and/or metformin*

*Metformin 850 mg twice per day.

IFG, impaired fasting glucose; IGT, impaired glucose tolerance

Figure 2. Meta-analysis of studies of effects of metformin on prediabetes using intention-to-treat and worst-case-scenario sensitivity analysis

STUDY OR SUBCATEGORY	TREATMENT n/N	CONTROL n/N			OR (FIX 95%)	ED) Ci			WEIGHT %	OR (FIXED) (95% CI)
Li et al ^m : ITT, WCS	6/45	6/45		+	-	_	-11		1.79	1.00 (0.30-3.37)
Knowler et al (ITT)24: WCS	237/1073	313/1082							83.76	0.70 (0.57-0.85)
Ramachandran et al ²³ : ITT, WCS	53/129	73/136		3	-				14.44	0.60 (0.37-0.98)
Total (95% CI)	1247	1263			٠				100	0.69 (0.58-0.82)
Total events: 296 (treatment), 392 (control)										
Test for heterogeneity: $\chi_2^2 = 0.67$, $P = .72$, $F = 0\%$										
Test for overall effect: Z=4.09, P<.0001			Ţ.	8		-3	~			
			0.1	0.2	0.5 1	ì	5	10		
			Favour	s treati	nent	Fav	IOUITS CO	ontrol		
CI-confidence interval. III-intention to treat. OR-odd	s ratio WCS-wo	rst-case scenario	Favour	s treatr	uent	Fav	ours c	ontrol		

Meta-analyses of effect of pharmacological and herbal interventions on risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

Study	Treatment	Hazard ratio (95% CI)	Hazard ratio (95% Cl)
Oral diabetes drugs			
Fang 2004 ^{w19}	Acarbose		0.27 (0.09 to 0.79)
Pan 2003 ^{w31}	Acarbose		0.60 (0.24 to 1.53)
STOP-NIDDM 2002 ^{w33}	Acarbose		0.75 (0.63 to 0.90)
Fang 2004 ^{w19}	Flumamine		0.43 (0.16 to 1.14)
Eriksson 2006 ^{w38}	Glipizide	-	0.18 (0.02 to 1.50)
DPP 2002 ^{w23}	Metformin	-	0.69 (0.57 to 0.84)
IDDP 2006 ^{w39}	Metformin		0.65 (0.44 to 0.96)
Li 1999 ^{w30}	Metformin		0.49 (0.12 to 1.95)
Jarrett 1979 ^{w2}	Phenformin		1.01 (0.48 to 2.15)
Pooled effect		•	0.70 (0.62 to 0.79)
Anti-obesity drug			
Heymsfield 2000 ^{w28}	Orlistat		0.39 (0.19 to 0.78)
XENDOS 2004 ^{w37}	Orlistat		0.48 (0.26 to 0.88)
Pooled effect		+	0.44 (0.28 to 0.69)
Herbal			
Fan 2004 ^{w20}	Jiangtang bushen recipe		→ 0.32 (0.03 to 3.07)
Gillies C L et al. B	MJ 2007;334:299	0 1 2 Favours Favo intervention cor	3 Durs Introl

KEY MESSAGES REGARDING METFORMIN AND CVD PREVENTION

•The retrospective database analyses can suggest that metformin may have beneficial CV effects but cannot prove it

•The lack of of additional studies to support the findings of the UKPDS after 16 years suggests the thesis that the data are unclear (we need at least 2 RCCT to be certain)

•The Glucose Lowering in Non-diabetic Hyperglycaemia Trial (GLINT) is being initiated to determine the effect of metformin vs placebo in reducing CV events in non-diabetic patients with Hyperglycaemia and high CV risk. This study will conclude in 2022

THE EVIDENCE OF METFORMIN IS UNCLEAR

Prevention of macrovascular complications in prediabetes

Meta-analysis de 10 RCTs (23,152 patients; 3.75 year of treatment)

NO DIFFERENCE between drug therapy and control for :

-All cause mortality (0.96; 95%CI 0.84-1.10) -Cardiovascular death (1.04; 95%CI 0.61-1.78). -Fatal or non-fatal MI (0.59; 95%CI 0.23-1.50).

--Reduction of Stroke in the limit of significance (0.76, 0.58-0.99)

CONCLUSSION:

To date, no intervention (lifestyle or drug) has shown significant reduction of CV events, except for stroke as the only "possible exception".

Hopper I et al. Eur J

Cardiovasc Prev Rehabil. 2011;18:813-23

MICROVASCULAR COMPLICATIONS



PREVALENCE OF RETINOPATHY IN PREDIABETES



Glycemic Thresholds for Diabetes-Specific Retinopathy

Implications for diagnostic criteria for diabetes

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RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODS — We conducted a data-pooling analysis of nine studies from five countries with 44,623 participants aged 20–79 years with gradable retinal photographs. The relationship between diabetes-specific retinopathy (defined as moderate or more severe retinopathy) and three glycemic measures (fasting plasma glucose [FPG; n = 41,411], 2-h post oral glucose load plasma glucose [2-h PG; n = 21,334], and A1C [n = 28,010]) was examined.

Diabetes Care 34:145-150, 2011

Neuropathy

- •The concept that neuropathy is an early sign of diabetes was proposed decades ago
- •Disturbance of peripheral nerves appears in early phases with mild dysglycaemia.
- •50% of prediabetic people shown light-moderate neuropathy (higher Vibration Perception Thresholds)
- Most of studies have reported an association between IGT & neuropathy.

The best way to prevent the progression of microvascular complicacions in prediabetes?...

To prevent the progression of hyperglycaemia

ARTICLE

Long-term effects of a randomised trial of a 6-year lifestyle intervention in impaired glucose tolerance on diabetes-related microvascular complications: the China Da Qing Diabetes Prevention Outcome Study

Q. Gong • E. W. Gregg • J. Wang • Y. An • P. Zhang • W. Yang • H. Li • H. Li • Y. Jiang • Y. Shuai • B. Zhang • J. Zhang • R. B. Gerzoff • G. Roglic • Y. Hu • G. Li • P. H. Bennett

N= 576 with IGT

Mean age aat baseline 44 years



Fig. 2 Cumulative incidence of severe retinopathy during the 20 year follow-up of the China Da Qing Diabetes Prevention Outcome Study in the control group (dotted line, white circles) and intervention group (solid line, black circles). The number at risk represents the number of



The ePREDICE Study

Early Prevention of Diabetes Complications in Individuals with hyperglycemia in Europe

Rafael Gabriel Jaakko Tuomilehto

To evaluate the 5-year impact (ITT analysis) of:

-metformin, linagliptin, or a fixed-dose combination of metformin + linagliptin, along with ifestyle (diet and physical activity) intervention

compared with (vs)

-only ifestyle (diet and physical activity) intervention

on several microvascular (retinal, renal and peripheral nerves) parameters

in people with prediabetes (IGT, IFG or IGT+IFG)

after 3-year of blinded intervention combined intervention (Lifestyle and drugs) .

ePREDICE STUDY DESIGN





* If HbA1c >6.5% in two consecutive blood samples at any time

Non-midriatic retinography





A Simplified View of The PNS





EARLY DETECTION OF DIABETES COMPLICATIONS







Normal innervation of a sweat gland at the distal leg in a healthy subject (left). Reduced innervation of a sweat gland in a diabetic patient (right).

Endothelial Function Assessment

Endo-PAT2000 Clinical Features:

- Endothelial Function Index
- Augmentation Index a Measure of Arterial Stiffness



Carotid-IMT assessment. Grade A Recommendation ACCF/AHA Guidelines 2010



Portable CardioHealth Station, Panasonic®

Greenland P, Alpert JS, Beller GA, Benjamin EJ, Budoff MJ, Fayad ZA, Foster E, Hlatky MA, Hodgson JMcB, Kushner FG, Lauer MS, Shaw LJ, Smith SC, Jr., Taylor AJ, Weintraub WS, Wenger NK. 2010 ACCF/AHA guideline for assessment of cardiovascular risk in asymptomatic adults: a report of the American College of Cardiology Foundation/American Heart Association Task Force on Practice Guidelines. J Am Coll Cardiol 2010;56:e50–103.

How Carotid Ultrasound Imaging Improves Risk Assessment

Ultrasound images of carotid artery



Carotid ultrasound imaging allows the physician to scan for two signs of atherosclerosis:

- Increased CIMT the thickness of the inner two layers (intima and media) of the carotid artery wall is known as carotid intima-media thickness (CIMT). Having a high CIMT compared to others of your age, gender, and ethnicity will place you at higher risk of heart attack and stroke.
 - Visible carotid plaque the presence of plaque places you in a higher risk category.

Leading medical associations agree that performing carotid ultrasound imaging to scan for plaque and measure CIMT can help to determine your risk of heart attack or stroke. These organizations include the American Heart Association (AHA), the American College of Cardiology (ACC), and the Society for Heart Attack Prevention and Eradication (SHAPE).



An ultrasound imaging study of the carofid arteries is performed on both sides of your neck.



