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### Learning Objectives

1. Articulate the nomenclature for acute coronary syndromes
2. List the standard diagnostic tests and their predictive value for coronary syndromes
3. Use evidence-based criteria in determining safe and effective medications to prescribe at discharge post-ACS
4. Practice secondary prevention of coronary syndromes, including medication and lifestyle modification
5. Deal with anxiety, return to function, and other issues related to acute coronary syndromes.

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### What is ASCVD?

- Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease
- Atherosclerosis of:
  - Coronary (ACS)
  - Cerebrovascular (including carotid)
  - Aortic (AAA)
  - Iliofemoral (PAD)
- Arterial different than venous disease
  - Anticoagulants, platelet inhibitor selection different

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### ACS Definitions

- Myocardial ischemia
  - Stable angina
  - Unstable angina
  - Myocardial infarctions
    - STEMI (ST segment elevation myocardial infarction)
    - NSTEMI (Non ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction)
- 625,000 discharged from U.S. hospitals each year with ACS
  - 30% of patients with STEMI
  - 70% had a type of NSTEMI-ACS

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### Five Types of Infarction

1. Coronary Atherothrombosis
2. Supply-demand mismatch that is not the result of acute atherothrombosis
3. Sudden death without the opportunity for biomarker or ECG confirmation
4. Related to a percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) infarction related to thrombosis of a coronary stent
5. Infarction related to coronary-artery bypass grafting (CABG)

Thygesen K, Alpert JS, Jaffe AS, et al. Third universal definition of myocardial infarction. J Am Coll Cardiol 2012;60:1581-1598.

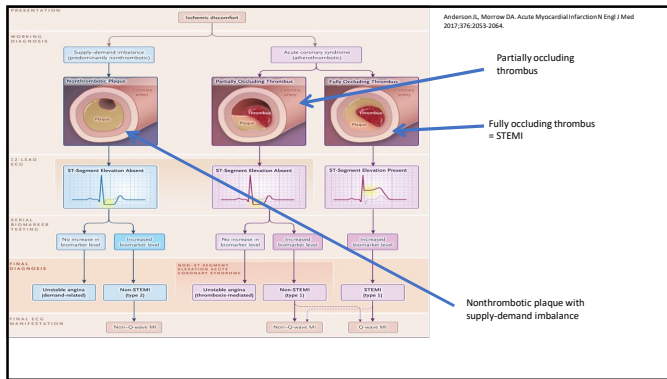
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### Coronary Plaque and Rupture

- ← Ruptured thin fibrous plaque with thrombus
- ← Stenotic fibrous plaque causing stable ischemic syndromes
- ← Proteoglycan-rich plaque with superficial erosion and thrombus

Libby P. N Engl J Med 2013;368:2004-2013.

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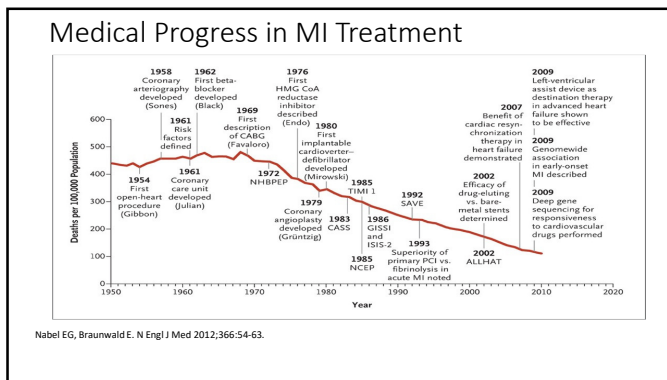
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### ACS Epidemiology

- Every 34 seconds, one American has a coronary event
- CAD often leads to heart failure and stroke and is the single largest killer of men and women in the U.S
- **Heart disease** is the leading cause of mortality in the United States, with ~ **650,000 in 2017** (now tied with Cancer)<sup>1</sup>
- **366,000** specific CAD deaths in the United States in 2015<sup>2</sup>
- 550,000 first episode MI and 200,000 Subsequent MI episodes annually<sup>3</sup>
- Hospitalization and Death from MI has **declined by 4-5% per year** and is leveling<sup>3</sup>

1)Kochanek KD et al. Deaths, final cause for 2017. *Heart Vital Stat Rep.* 2019; 68(9):1-76  
2)Pharm M. Deaths, leading causes for 2014. *Heart Vital Stat Rep.* 2016; 65(1):1-96  
3)Mozaffarian D. Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics 2015. *Circulation* 2015; 131:e366-439

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### Standard-Setting Guidelines

- ACC AHA evidence/expert guideline panels
  - ACS
    - NSTEMI 2014
    - STEMI 2012
  - HTN 2017
  - PCI 2015
  - Dual antiplatelet therapy (DAPT) update 2016
  - Blood cholesterol to reduce CV risk
  - Secondary prevention for patients with ASCVD 2011
  - ASCVD prevention in women 2011

<http://www.acc.org/guidelines#doctype=Guidelines> accessed 4\_26\_18

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### Primary Prevention

- Passive primary prevention
  - US diet regulation, food inspection
    - Trans-fatty acids, labeling, calorie restriction
- Active primary prevention
  - Promotion of healthy lifestyle
  - Identification of CAD precursors
    - HTN
    - HLP
    - T2DM
    - Smoking status

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### Smoking

- Passive primary prevention: Tobacco tax, age restriction, labeling, public smoking prohibition
- Secondary prevention:
  - Smoking cessation counseling—Family Physicians are good at this!

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**James**  
Calculating ASCVD Risk

56-yr-old AA with tot chol 250, LDL 134, HDL 36, SBP 152. Smoking, no DM, no HTN treatment or ASA.



**ASCVD Risk Calculator**

	Baseline Risk	Updated Risk
Gender		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Male <input type="radio"/> Female
Age (years)	56	
Race		<input type="radio"/> Other / Mixed
Total Cholesterol	250	250
LDL Cholesterol	134	134
HDL Cholesterol	35	35
Treatment With Statin	No Statin	
Systolic Blood Pressure	144/85	144
Treatment For Hypertension		
History Of Diabetes		
Current Smoker	Smoking	
Aspirin Therapy		

[http://www.heart.org/healthycounselor/clinicaltools/preventionguidelines/ASCVD\\_Risk-Calculator.jsp](http://www.heart.org/healthycounselor/clinicaltools/preventionguidelines/ASCVD_Risk-Calculator.jsp) accessed Apr 12, 2018

Calculate Baseline Risk

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**18.4%**  
Baseline 10 years ASCVD Risk

**Review Inputs**

Therapy Choices **ER**


Start statin (moderate intensity) or intensify statin from moderate to high intensity dose now **13.8%**

Adverse Events

Start (or add) BP-lowering drug now **13.5%**

Adverse Events

Stop smoking for 2 years **13.5%**



**2013 Prevention Guidelines Tools**  
**CV RISK CALCULATOR**

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- **A**sk (“Do you smoke?”)
- **A**dvice (“Smoking will reduce your quality and length of life”)
- **A**ssess (readiness to change)
- **A**ssist (offer prescription assistance)
  - Nicotine replacement, bupropion, varenicline
- **A**rrange (follow up)

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AES Question



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Question 1 NSTEMI:

NSTEMI definition: Chest Pain with.....

- Elevation of ST Segment
- Elevation of Troponin
- Q Wave
- Urgent CAGB

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2. List the standard diagnostic tests and their predictive value for coronary syndromes

- **Chest discomfort: characteristics**
- High sensitivity and tissue-specificity, cardiac **troponins I [cTnI] and T [cTnT]**
- Serial **EKG**
- **Angiography**
- **Non-Invasive Testing**

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### Early Identification of ACS

- Symptoms:
  - Typical angina
    - Central crushing pain radiating to back, neck, or arm with diaphoresis
  - Atypical angina
    - Left precordial pain with or without exertion and
  - Non-cardiac chest pain
    - Costochondral pain reproduced with palpation
  - Anginal equivalent pain
    - Exertional dyspnea or even fatigue (women, CRF, geriatric, diabetes)

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### Approaching Chest Pain

*Medicine is a science of uncertainty and an art of probability.*

—William Osler

Silverman ME, Murray TJ, Bryan CS. The Quotable Osler. American College of Physicians, 2007

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### Pretest probability of obstructive CAD

Pooled data from ~16,000 patients

Age	Typical		Atypical		Non-anginal		Dyspnea	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
30-39	3%	5%	4%	3%	1%	1%	0%	3%
40-49	22%	10%	10%	6%	3%	2%	12%	3%
50-59	32%	13%	17%	6%	11%	3%	20%	9%
60-69	44%	16%	26%	11%	22%	6%	27%	14%
70+	52%	27%	34%	19%	24%	10%	32%	12%

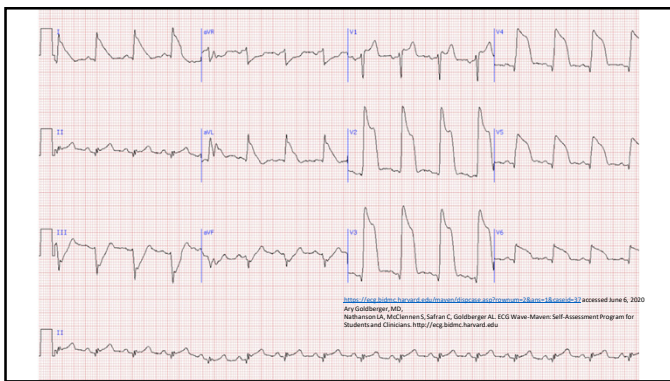
Adapted from 2019 ESC Guidelines for the diagnosis and management of chronic coronary syndromes. European Heart Journal 2020 41, 407-477

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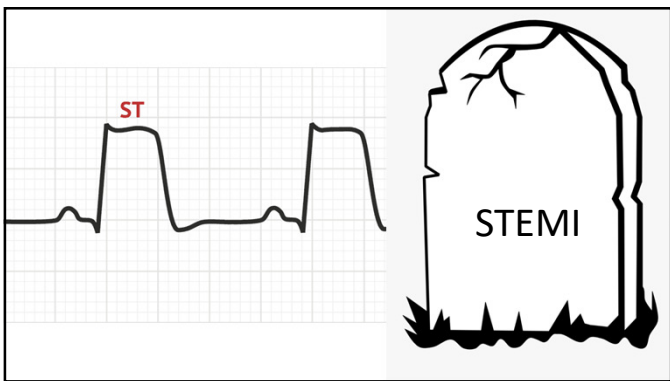
### Troponin

- Rising or falling pattern and at least one value above 99%ile
- Highly sensitive Troponin within 1-2 hours but many "false positives"
  - Myocarditis, CRF, Respiratory Failure, Intracranial Hemorrhage, Stroke, septic shock, structural heart disease, and respiratory failure; stroke or intracranial hemorrhage; septic shock; and chronic structural heart
- CKMB and Myoglobin no longer recommended by ACC
  - American College of Pathology recommend against these in "Choosing Wisely"

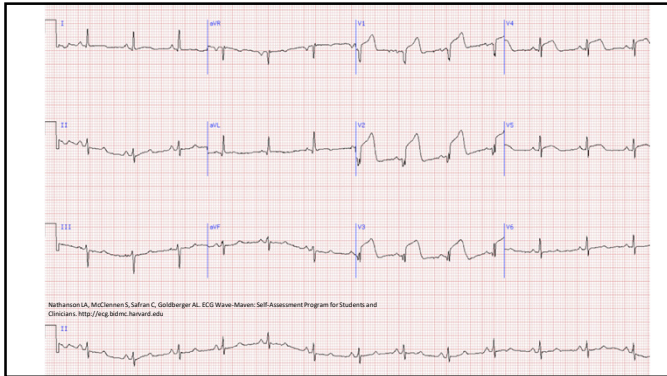
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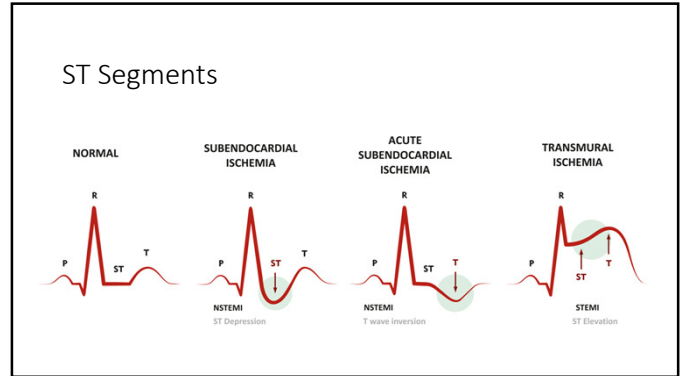
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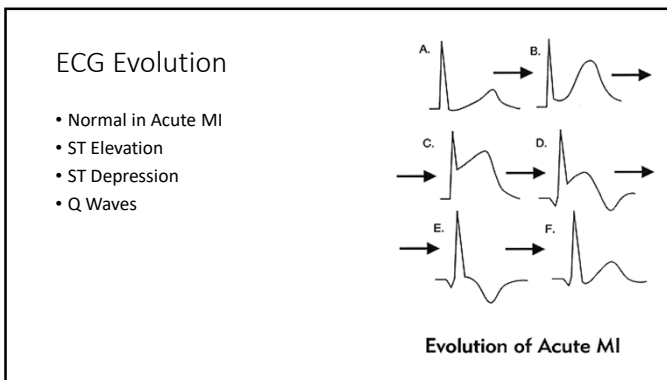
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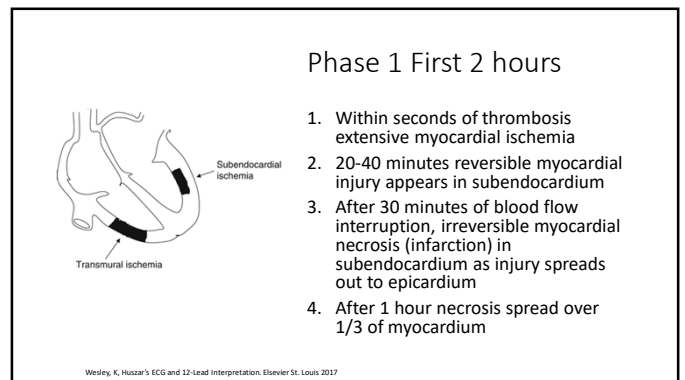
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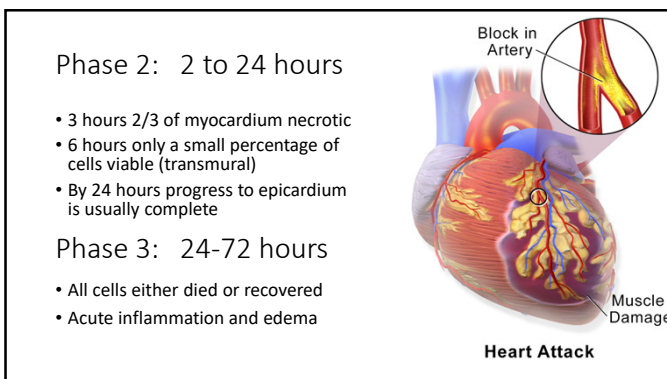
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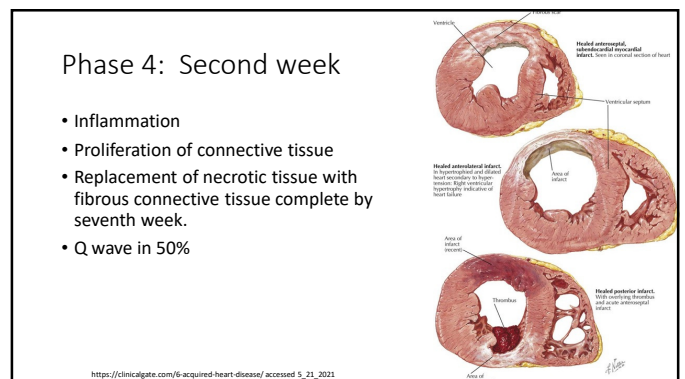
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## ECG Changes & Infarct Location

Location	ST elevation	Reciprocal ST depression	Coronary artery
Anterior MI	V1-6	none	LAD
Septal MI	V1-4, disappearance of septum Q in Leads V5-6	none	LAD-septal branches
Lateral MI	I, aVL, V5, V6	II, III, aVF	LCX or MO
Inferior MI	II, III, aVF	I, aVL	RCA (80%) or RCX (20%)
Posterior MI	V7, V8, V9	High R in V2-V3 with ST depression V1-V3 > 2mm (mirror view)	RCX
Right Ventricle MI	V1, V4R	I, aVL	RCA
Atrial MI	Pta in I, V5, V6	Pta in I, II, or III	RCA

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## Diagnostic Tests for C/P

- Exercise ECG, "stress test": 70% sens/spec
  - But 95% negative predictive value
- Nuclear stress test: Slightly improved sensitivity
  - Quantify ischemic area
  - For those with physical limitations, LBBB
- CCTA: Improved sensitivity and specificity
  - Reduced MACE? Radiation exposure
- Stress echocardiography: Availability
- Coronary angiography: Invasive

Taylor AJ, Improving the Odds in the Evaluation of Chest Pain. JACC 60(21) 2012

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## Testing

- Serial ECGs (e.g., 15- to 30-minute intervals during the first hour) (C)
- Serial cardiac troponin I or T levels at presentation and 3-6 h (A) and beyond 6 h if timing or symptoms unclear (C)
- Risk scores should be used to stratify patients
- Echocardiogram

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## Hospital Care

- M Morphine (pain control, reduce anxiety and CO and preload reduction)
- O Oxygen (may not be of that much value and could be harmful)
- N Nitrate (vasodilation and preload reduction)
- A Aspirin
- Clopidogrel, prasugrel, ticagrelor held if going to cath lab
- B-blocker held if going for nuclear stress test
- IV access in case of cardiac arrest
- Cardiac monitoring for dysrhythmia

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## In-Hospital Anticoagulation

- Unfractionated heparin
- Low-molecular-weight heparin
- Bivalirudin
- GPI: (Glycoprotein Inhibitor) IIB/IIIA inhibitors

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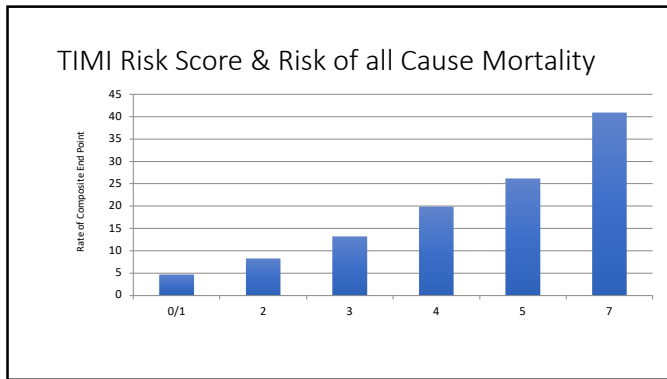
## Thrombolysis in MI (TIMI) UA/NSTEMI

- Initial medical evaluation of patients with UA/NSTEMI can be used to construct a simple classification system that is predictive of risk for death and cardiac ischemic events.

Risk Factor	Weight
Age >65	+1
>3 RF: DM, HTN, Angina, smoke	+1
Known CAD (stenosis >50%)	+1
ASA use in the past 7 days	+1
Severe angina (>2 episodes in 24 h)	
EKG ST changes > 0.5mm	+1
Positive Cardiac Marker	+1

<https://www.mdcalc.com/timi-risk-score-ua-nstemi> accessed 5/15/19

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### Grace Score

- Cardiac arrest at admission?
- Abnormal cardiac enzymes
- ST segment deviation on EKG
- Abnormal cardiac enzymes
- Killip Class
  - No CHF
  - Rales and/or JVD
  - Pulmonary Edema
  - Cardiogenic Shock
- 10% probability of death within 6m

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### Case 1 NSTEMI: Ralph

- 68-yr WM past MI with former PCI 1 year ago; smoking, diabetes, HTN, HLP; not taking his aspirin; has central crushing chest pain with radiation to shoulder and diaphoresis; positive troponin and unchanged ECG .

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### AES Question

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### Question 2

What is Jerry's risk of death, MI, or revascularization within 14 days?

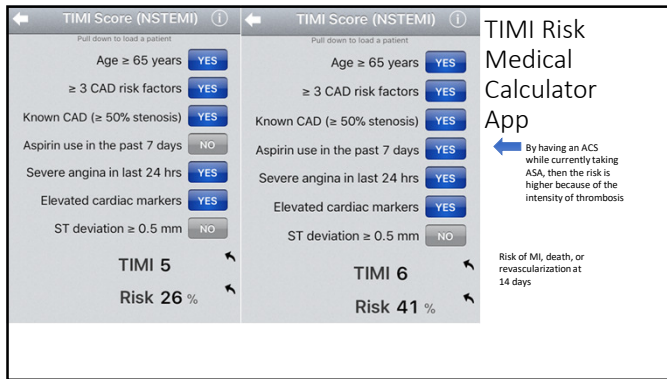
- 15%
- 25%
- 35%
- 45%
- 55%

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### Unchanged ECG: Therefore NSTEMI

- High-risk patient
- High-risk approach
- This is why we proceed to **angiogram** rather than Non-invasive testing (exercise stress testing or myocardial imaging)
- Interventional
- "Aggressive"

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### Hospital Care Revascularization

- 1970s Peripheral thrombolysis
- 1980s Coronary thrombolysis
- 1990s Bare metal stent
- 2000s Drug-eluting stent
- 2010s Second-generation DES
- Balance between
  - Post-stent stenosis (fibroblast)
  - Post-stent thrombosis (platelet aggregation)

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### Standards of ACS Care

- Prehospital care including defibrillator
  - AED
  - ICD
- 90-min door to balloon time
- Thrombolysis and transport if not near a coronary cath lab
- Angiogram/PCI within 24 hours at another center
- Treatment of coronary thrombosis after 72 hrs or stable CAD, less clear

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### Standards of ACS Care NSTEMI

Variable	Invasive Intervention			Ischemia-Guided
	Immediate	Early	Delayed	
Timing	Within 2 hours	Within 24 hours	25-72 hours	Spontaneous or provoked ischemia
Indications	Refractory Angina New-onset HF New MR	GRACE >140 Rising troponin New ST depression	GRACE 109-140 TIMI ≥2 EF <40 Post infarct angina DM, Renal, prev CABG PCI within 6 m	TIMI 0 Low-risk and troponin-neg women Patient preference

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### Revascularization: CABG

- **Triple-vessel disease**
- Severe **left main stem** artery stenosis
- **Left main equivalent disease** (ie, 70 percent or greater stenosis of left anterior descending and proximal left circumflex artery)—particularly if left ventricular function is impaired
- DMII selected cases

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### 3. Use evidence-based criteria in determining safe and effective medications to prescribe at discharge post-ACS

- a) B Blockers
- b) ACE Inhibitors / ARB
- c) Vaccination for Influenza and Pneumococcal disease
- d) Antiplatelets
- e) Statin Therapy

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### 3a Beta Blockers

- Begin and continue for **3 years** in AMI pts with normal LVEF (1B)
  - Use in all pts with reduced EF: (1A)
- Also, be aware CMS Quality Measures Post MI: (6 months minimum)
- Cardioselective
  - Bisoprolol, Metoprolol, Acebutolol, Atenolol, Betaxolol, Nebivolol
- Non-cardioselective
  - Carvedilol, Labetalol, Nadolol, Pindolol
- Quality Measure Exclusions
  - Asthma, COPD, Hypotension, Sinus Bradycardia, beta-blocker allergy
  - Frailty Codes
- CCB alternative if Beta-blockers not successful, contraindicated or have unacceptable side effects
  - Nondihydropyridine: verapamil and diltiazem

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### 3b RAAS Blocade

- Renin Angiotensin Aldosterone System (**RAAS**) Blocker
- ACEI in all patients with HTN, DM, EF < 40 and CKD (1A)
- If intolerant to ACE use ARB (not both) (1A)
  - Captopril: 6.25 to 12.5 mg three times per day, titrate up to 25 to 50 mg as tolerated
  - Lisinopril: 2.5 to 5 mg per day, titrate up to 10 mg as tolerated
  - Valsartan: 20 mg twice daily, titrate up to 160 mg twice daily as tolerated

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### 3c Vaccination against Influenza, Pneumococcal Disease and .....

- Excess Mortality from AMI during influenza syndrome and those with current infections
- Inflammatory and other factors
- Pneumococcal Pneumonia
- COPD Exacerbations early recognition and treatment
- SARS CoV-2 vaccine

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### 3c. Statin Therapy

- High Intensity Statin (1A)
- Hyperlipidemia **identified** and treated in the **initial hospital stay**
- **High Intensity Statin Therapy:**
  - Atorvastatin (40–80 mg) or Rosuvastatin (20–40 mg).
  - Moderate-intensity statin Atorvastatin (10–20 mg), rosuvastatin (5–10 mg), simvastatin (20–40 mg), pravastatin (40–80 mg)
  - Indefinitely (over age 80?)
- CMS Quality Measures for Initiation of proper dose and adherence
- CMS
  - Prev-13 Statin Therapy for the Prevention and Treatment of Cardiovascular Disease
  - Statin Adherence Measures

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### Statin Therapy

- Because post-MI patients fall into a high-risk group, they should receive high-intensity statin regardless of lipid level
- This should be started in hospital
- This must be reinforced as an important medication
- Lots of misinformation about statins
- Adherence to statin is a quality measure by CMS

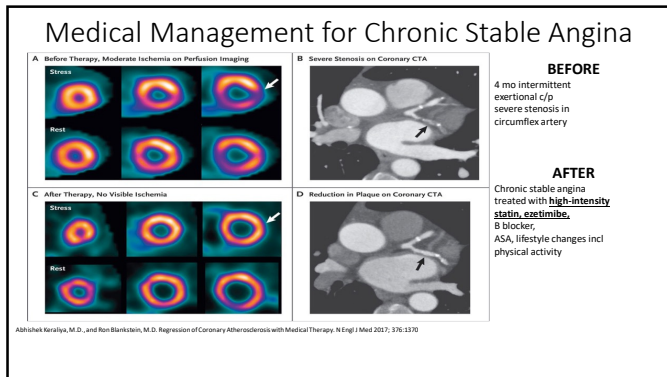
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### ICD-10 Coding for Statin Exception

- G72.0 Drug-induced myopathy
- G72.2 Myopathy due to other toxic agents
- G72.9 Myopathy, unspecified
- M60.9 Myositis, unspecified
- M62.82 Rhabdomyolysis
- M79.1 Myalgia
- M79.10 Myalgia, unspecified site
- M79.18 Myalgia, other site

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### 3 d. Platelet Inhibitors

- Invasive strategy--PCI with stent (BMS or DES): at least 12 months; (1A)
- Ischemia-guided (initial non-invasive) strategy: up to 12 months (clopidogrel or ticagrelor) (1B)
- Prasugrel versus ticagrelor

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### Post-hospital Care

- Cardiac rehab
- Depression screening
- Statin
- BP control
- Exercise prescription
- Diet
- Sexuality

Switaj, TL et al Acute Coronary Syndrome: Current Treatment. Am Fam Physician. 2017 Feb 15;95(4):232-240.

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### Case 2—Cardiac Rehab: Brenda

- 72-yo woman with recent inferior MI
- PCI x 2
- Discharged on high-dose statin, ACE, beta blocker
- Advised to stop smoking. Had been inactive prior to admission and has moderate OA knees and BMI 32.

AdobeStock/istock # 21081719

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### AES Question

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### Question 3

What is the best way to provide support for behavior change, medication adherence, and graduated exercise?

- A. Fear-based advice. *“Take the meds or you may have another MI!”*
- B. Autonomy. *“Take these meds and get some exercise—it’s up to you!”*
- C. Fatalism. *“In my experience, people don’t change.”*
- D. Cardiac rehabilitation. *“Your insurance covers a program of supervised exercise and coaching.”*

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## Cardiac Rehabilitation

- Curiously, cardiologists often forget to refer
- We should ensure that patients are enrolled for this covered service
- Reinforcement of disease education and medication adherence
- Supervised exercise builds confidence and creates new habits
- Coaching on diet/smoking cessation, etc.

AdobeStock/kenan # 15494433



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## Exercise

- Adults should engage in aerobic physical activity to reduce LDL-C and non-HDL-C and to lower blood pressure
- 3-4 sessions per week lasting an average of 40 minutes per session
- Moderate-to-vigorous intensity physical activity
- Monitoring /motivational systems
  - Step counter
  - Fitbit
- Ask every patient about activity

<https://www.aafp.org/patient-care/browse/all-recommendations-topic.html> - Accessed April 12, 2018

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## AES Question



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## Question 4

How many psychiatrists does it take to change a light bulb?

- A. 0
- B. 1
- C. 2
- D. 5
- E. 10

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## Answer: B (One)


- People don't change until they are ready
- You are able to help them choose to change
  - By reviewing this major life event
  - By presenting the potential for longer, healthier life
  - By providing them with programs and support
  - By co-opting family

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## Diet

- Low fat diet?
- Low CHO diet?
- Reduction in total calories?
- Special considerations for DM, CRF, uric acid, gluten..... it gets complicated
- Goal: Weight reduction, lipid lowering
- DASH diet shown to lower BP 2-5 mm Hg
- Eliminate one dietary problem per month

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Case 3—DAPT: Duong

- 71-yo Asian M with recent MI (1 month ago) and **PCI**
- No atrial fibrillation
- Hyperlipidemia
- Hypertension
- CKD III (GFR = 50)
- Smoking 1 ppd

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## AES Question



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Question 5  
The safest regimen to prevent MACE (major adverse cardiac events) is:

- Triple therapy: ASA, warfarin, and P2Y12 platelet inhibitor
- Double therapy: ASA and platelet inhibitor for 6-12 m
- Single therapy: Platelet inhibitor for 1 year
- Single therapy: ASA 81 mg indefinitely

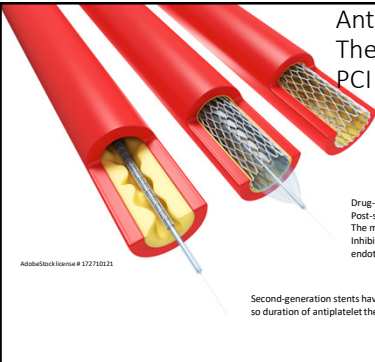
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ACC/AHA FOCUSED UPDATE

**2016 ACC/AHA Guideline Focused Update on Duration of Dual Antiplatelet Therapy in Patients With Coronary Artery Disease**

- ANSWER "B"
- P2Y12 inhibitors: Clopidogrel, prasugrel, ticagrelor
- Risk/benefit of increased bleeding and decreased thrombosis
- 6-12 m of DAPT (I)
- Beyond 12 m (II b)
- ASA 81 vs higher doses (I)
- Ticagrelor over clopidogrel (II b)
- Prasugrel reasonable choice unless hx of stroke (III harm)

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Antiplatelet Therapy after PCI

Bare metal stents risk:  
Post-stent fibrosis

Drug-eluting stents (DES) risk:  
Post-stent thrombosis  
The metal frame elutes a fibroblast inhibitor that also prevents endothelialization.

Second-generation stents have less risk of thrombosis so duration of antiplatelet therapy potentially shorter.

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## What If Patients Have PCI and Atrial Fibrillation?

- ¼ of older patients with AFib receive triple therapy
- Risk of fatal and nonfatal bleeding is 4x as high as warfarin alone
- Risk of intracranial hemorrhage is 2x the risk of DAPT
- So what agents can we use and how many?

Piccine JP, Jones WS, Triple Therapy for Atrial Fibrillation after PCI N Engl J Med 2017 377:16

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### RE-DUAL: Triple Therapy in Patients with AFib & PCI Dabigatran and P2Y12 Instead of Warfarin

- 2275 patients: Warfarin, P2Y12 inhibitor (clopidogrel or ticagrelor) and aspirin vs dabigatran plus P2Y12
  - Follow-up 14 m for major bleeding event or composite MI, stroke or VTE, death or unplanned revascularization
  - Less bleeding events, and no increase in thrombosis (p 0.03)
- Supports WOEST (2013) and PIONEER (2016)
- Option: Stop ASA when drug-eluting stent, DOAC, and P2Y12

Cannon CP et al. Dual Antithrombotic Therapy with Dabigatran after PCI in Atrial Fibrillation. N Engl J Med 2017;377:1513-24

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### 2019 AAFP Guideline on Treatment of Post MI Depression

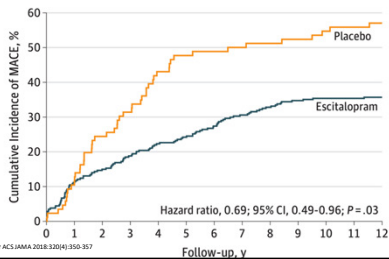
Up to 65% of patients with acute MI report experiencing symptoms of depression

1. A Standardized tool should be used in patients post MI to evaluate for MDD
2. Patients with a positive screening test should have a diagnostic evaluation
3. Antidepressant therapy preferably **SSRI/SNRI** +/- CBT (TCA should be avoided)

[https://www.aafp.org/news/health-of-the-public/2019/25depressionguideline.html#toc=4\\_4\\_2020](https://www.aafp.org/news/health-of-the-public/2019/25depressionguideline.html#toc=4_4_2020)

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### RCT of Escitalopram for ACS: Cumulative Incidence of MACE



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### Depression Screening

- PHQ 2
- PHQ 9
- 65% of post-MI patients with depression
- CBT, activity, rehab program
- Antidepressants: ~~TCA~~, SSRI, SNRI
- AAFP guideline forthcoming on post-MI depression

AAFP Commission of Health of Public and Science, subcommittee on Clinical Practice Guidelines

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### AES Question



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### AES Question #6

How much effort does sexual intercourse take (in metabolic equivalents)?

- 2 METS
- 4 METS
- 12 METS
- 16 METS

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### Answer: Four Mets

- Four Mets =
  - Walking up one flight of stairs
  - Walking one block on the level
- Most people are discharged able to return to sexual intercourse
- Most patients and their spouses are anxious

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### Sexuality

- Partners worry and sexual dysfunction can be related to perceived vulnerability/fragility.
- **PDE 4** medications can cause hypotension when co-administered with nitrates.
- Sexuality does not have to include intercourse.

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### In Hospital Practice Recommendations

- **Reperfusion therapy**, preferably primary PCI, should be administered to eligible patients with **STEMI** and symptom onset within the previous 12 hours (A)
- In the absence of contraindications, **fibrinolytic therapy should be administered to patients with STEMI at non-PCI-capable hospitals** when the anticipated first medical contact to device time at a PCI-capable hospital exceeds 120 minutes. (A)
- Patients with STEMI should be transferred to a PCI-capable hospital for **angiography after successful fibrinolysis** (B)
- Fibrinolysis is **not recommended** for treatment in patients with **NSTE-ACS**. (B)
- **Parenteral anticoagulation**, in addition to antiplatelet therapy, is recommended for all patients with **NSTE-ACS** regardless of initial treatment strategy. (A)

From Switaj T. Acute Coronary Syndrome Current Treatment AAFP 2017.

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### Post Hospital Practice Recommendations

- **High-intensity statin** therapy is recommended for all patients younger than 75 years with stable CAD, unless contraindicated (A)
- **Daily low-dose aspirin** is recommended for all patients with stable CAD, unless contraindicated (A)
- **Beta blockers should be continued for up to three years** after myocardial infarction in patients with abnormal left ventricular function (B)
- Select patients with uncontrolled symptoms of stable CAD despite optimal medical management may benefit from coronary revascularization with **percutaneous coronary intervention or coronary artery bypass grafting** (B)

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