



## Atherosclerosis: Pathophysiology and Associations with Other Diseases

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### Message from the Guest Editor

Cardiovascular diseases are the main cause of death in Western countries. Their common basis is adverse structural and functional changes within vascular walls, specifically atherosclerosis and arteriosclerosis, which tend to coexist, causing progressive, diffuse, and age-related deterioration in all vascular beds. Atherosclerosis is a chronic inflammatory and degenerative process that mainly occurs in large- and medium-sized arteries, and is morphologically characterized by asymmetric focal thickenings of the innermost layer of the artery, known as the intima. Arteriosclerosis refers to the degenerative stiffness in the arterial beds, defined as the reduced capability of an artery to expand and contract in response to pressure changes.

The scope of this Special Issue is to unravel the molecular mechanisms involved in the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis and the association between atherosclerotic diseases and other disorders, and to describe the clinical and therapeutic implications of such associations.





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