



Special Issue

Recent insights into atherosclerosis: from causes to treatments

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Special Issue Introduction

Atherosclerosis is a lipid-driven, chronic inflammatory disease of the vessel wall in which both innate and adaptive immune responses play a role. Atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality globally. Organ systems, including heart, brain and kidneys, as well as extremities, can be damaged, leading to atherosclerosis-driven clinical outcomes. Infiltration and accumulation of plasma lipoproteins and leukocyte subsets is a driving force of atherosclerotic lesion growth. Treatment of atherosclerosis often begins with robust cholesterol-lowering treatments, yet many patients continue to experience cardiovascular events. Targeting inflammation by inhibiting pro-inflammatory cytokines has emerged as a novel promising mode of therapy to improve and complement the current lipid-lowering approaches. The goals of this issue are to: 1. discuss and question the current dogmas about atherosclerotic disease progression, learn about new molecules and new cellular pathways that mechanistically play a role in atherosclerosis development. 2. discuss how to utilize new high dimensional methods to study cellular and molecular components of the atherosclerotic plaque. 3. Explore cutting-edge technologies to discover new therapeutic targets and approaches for drug development.

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