

## Vulnerable Atherosclerotic Plaque: Technical Brief Number 3



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## VULNERABLE ATHEROSCLEROTIC PLAQUE: TECHNICAL BRIEF NUMBER 3



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CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Paperback. Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. 86 pages. Dimensions: 11.0in. x 8.5in. x 0.2in. Atherosclerosis is a chronic condition with acute cardiovascular manifestations. Most commonly, the acute manifestations of atherosclerosis are triggered by a local arterial occlusion with a thrombus overlying a pre-existing atherosclerotic plaque. Despite landmark advances in the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease, it remains the leading cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide, accounting in 2005 for 35 of all deaths in the United States and 30 of all deaths globally. A particular challenge to combating the epidemic of cardiovascular disease is the sudden and often unpredictable nature of its acute manifestations. For many patients with atherosclerosis, the first manifestation is an acute myocardial infarction, sudden cardiac death, or a disabling stroke. This has fueled considerable research aimed at refining existing algorithms for risk stratification and developing new methods to identify subjects before the occurrence of a cardiovascular event so that primary preventive measures can be initiated. Furthermore, among patients who have survived a cardiovascular event, the risk of a subsequent event remains relatively high approaching 1 in 4 despite aggressive treatment. Such recurrence rates highlight the need for novel approaches to secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease and to the treatment of index events. Over the past two decades, the concept of the vulnerable plaque has gained attention as a paradigm to improve risk stratification and potentially lead to newer invasive and non-invasive therapeutic options to prevent and treat atherothrombotic cardiovascular disease. The Effective Health Care Program at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality requested a technical brief on the diagnosis and treatment of vulnerable plaques of coronary and carotid arteries. Our report is based on a set of key questions designed to explore the concept of vulnerable plaque and how...



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