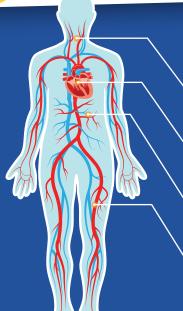


# **ATHEROSCLEROSIS**

& ITS SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES

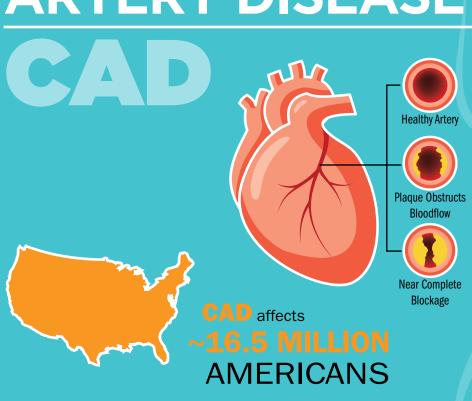
Atherosclerosis is the narrowing or hardening of arteries from the build-up of plaque - deposits of fats, cholesterols, and other substances — that can block normal blood flow or break-off and cause a clot

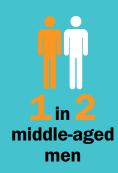


ATHEROSCLEROSIS can affect any artery in the body and can cause different diseases based on which arteries are affected:

- CAROTID ARTERY DISEASE results from atherosclerosis in the arteries that supply blood to the brain and is a major cause of stroke
- **CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE (CAD)** also called coronary heart disease results from atherosclerosis of the arteries that feed the heart and is the leading cause of heart attack
- CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE can result from atherosclerosis in the renal arteries and can lead to loss of kidney function
- PERIPHERAL ARTERY DISEASE (PAD) commonly refers to atherosclerosis of arteries in the legs and is a major cause of amputation and ulcers

### **CORONARY** ARTERY DISEASE



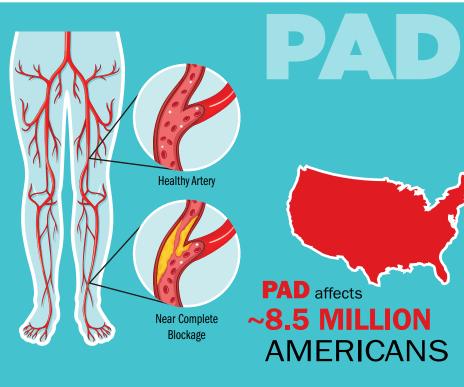


At RISK OF in their lifetime

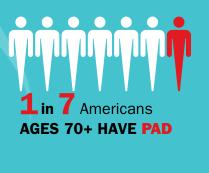


**CAD** is the **most common type** of **heart disease** in the U.S.

## **PERIPHERAL ARTERY DISEASE**



PAD is underdiagnosed and undertreated



OLDER AGE

Only 1 in 4 people EXPRESS

## RISK FACTORS & SYMPTOMS •

CAD can restrict blood flow to the heart, starving it of vital oxygen and nutrients and leading to:

- Angina (chest pain)
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Nausea/ vomiting
- Irregular heart rhythm
- Heart attack/ heart failure

Just 1 cigarette per day increases **CAD** risk by **48 - 74**% in **men & 57-119%** in women

**Smoking** increases risk of **PAD** by **2-4X** and brings on symptoms ~10 years

earlier



PAD & CAD SHARE **MAJOR** RISK **FACTORS** 



**AFRICAN AMERICANS** are ~2X more likely than non-**Hispanic Whites** to have PAD

**1**in**3** people ages 50+ with **DIABETES** are likely to have **PAD** 

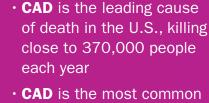
#### PAD can restrict blood flow to the limbs and lead to:

- Cramping, pain, or discomfort in the hips, legs, or feet that may go away with rest
  - · Heaviness, weakness, or numbness in the legs causing difficulty walking
  - Lower legs or feet that are colder than the rest of the body
  - 50% of people with PAD

#### As PAD progresses it can lead to:

- Leg or foot wounds that don't heal
  - Shiny or discolored skin on the legs and feet
  - Poor nail growth
  - Hair loss or slowed growth on feet and legs
- Erectile dysfunction in men

### COMPLICATIONS



- cause of sudden cardiac death — which accounts for ~50% of all deaths from cardiovascular disease in the U.S. CAD is the most common
- cause of heart failure

In one 3-year period

of patients : of patients

with CAD: with PAD

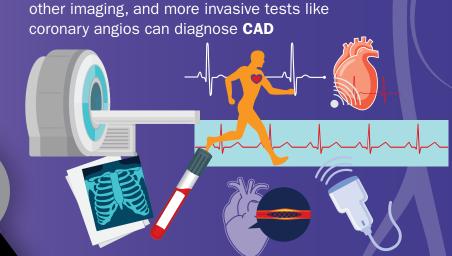
experience at least one of the following:

**HEART ATTACK, STROKE,** 

VASCULAR DEATH, OR **REHOSPITALIZATION** for a different vascular event

- PAD causes more than 56,000 deaths each year
- Each year ~186,000 Medicare beneficiaries suffer from amputations due to PAD PAD increases the risk
- of CAD by 2-4X African Americans have
- a 37% higher risk of amputation from PAD than whites

## **DIAGNOSIS**

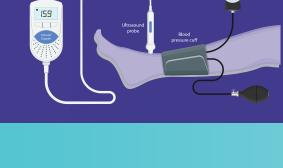


A variety of tests like echocardiograms and

diagnosed with a simple exam of the feet take your socks off at visits! The ankle brachial index (ABI) is also a

PAD on the other hand can often be

simple test that compares blood pressure in the arms and legs to look for decreased circulation



### **PREVENTION** PAD & CAD can sometimes be PREVENTED

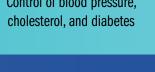
with a **HEALTHY LIFESTYLE**:













# **TREATING CAD & PAD**



pressure and to manage diabetes, may help control atherosclerosis 1700 K Street, NW

may be

Anticoagulants

prescribed to

risk of stroke

reduce the

All references available at www.agingresearch.org/CAD-PAD The Alliance for Aging Research is the leading non-profit organization dedicated to accelerating the pace of scientific discoveries and their application in order

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to widen and keep the artery open, or bypass surgery to place a new vessel around the blockage



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