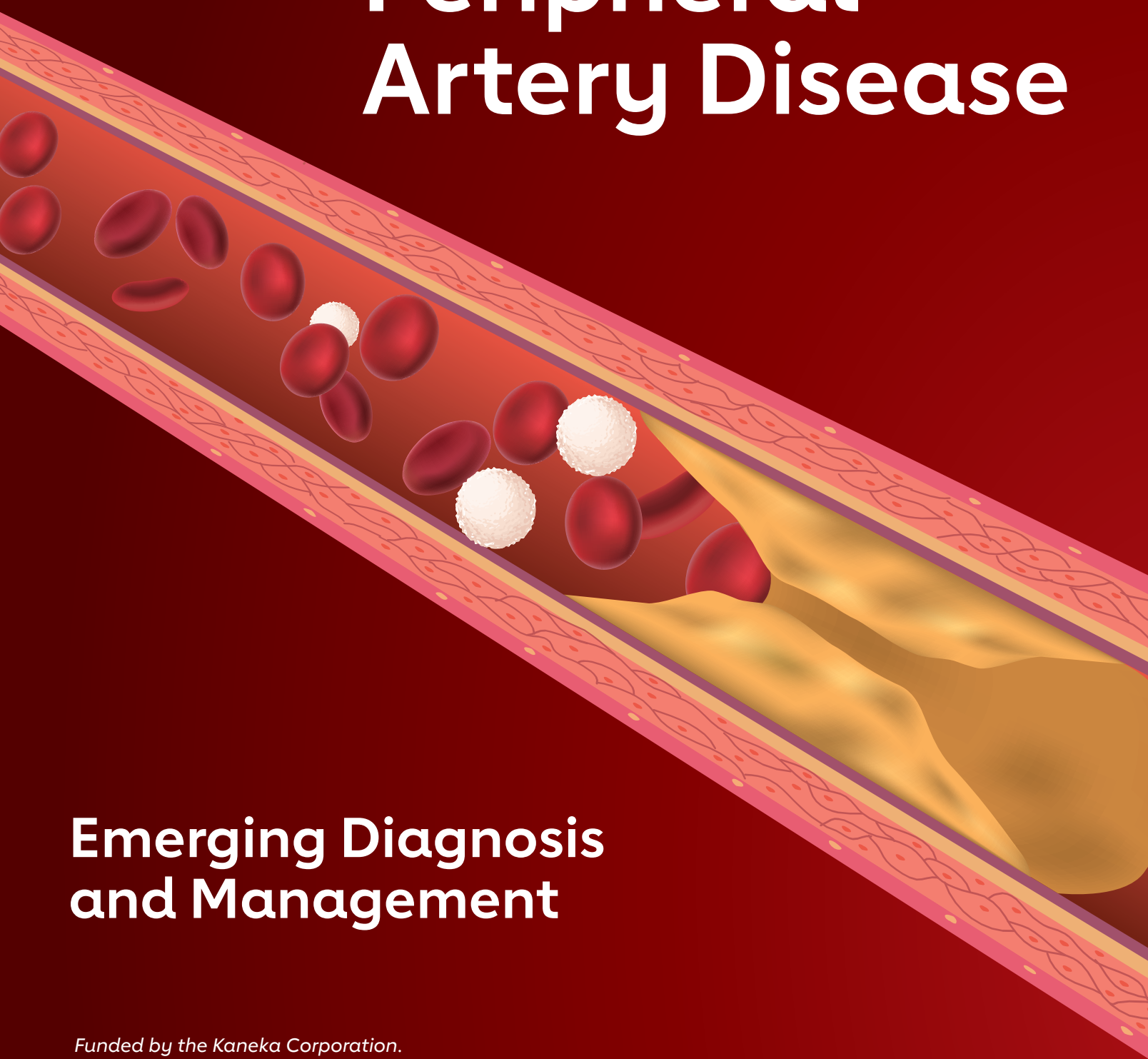




American  
Heart  
Association.

# Lp(a) and Peripheral Artery Disease



## Emerging Diagnosis and Management

*Funded by the Kaneka Corporation.*

**Publisher's Note**

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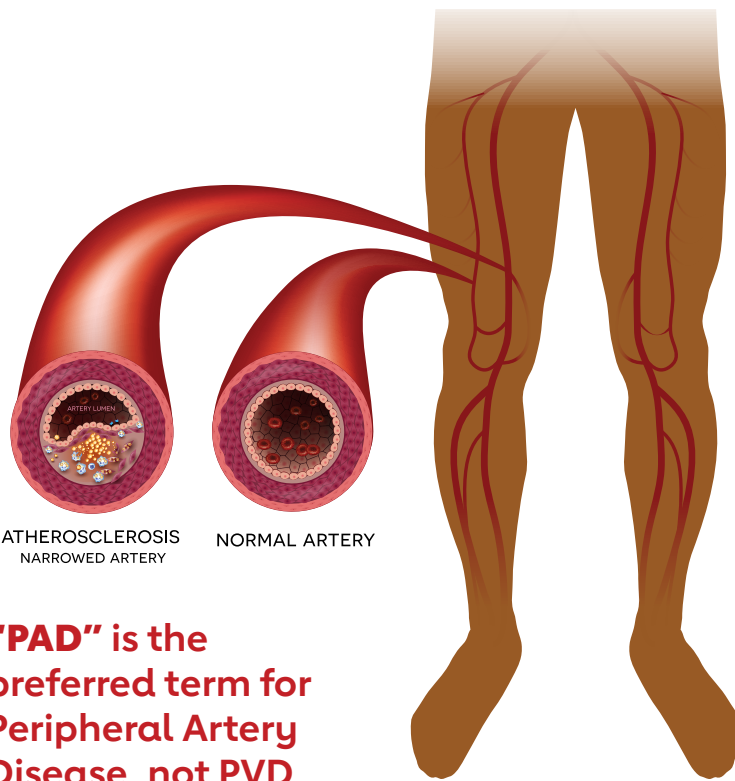
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# Defining PAD

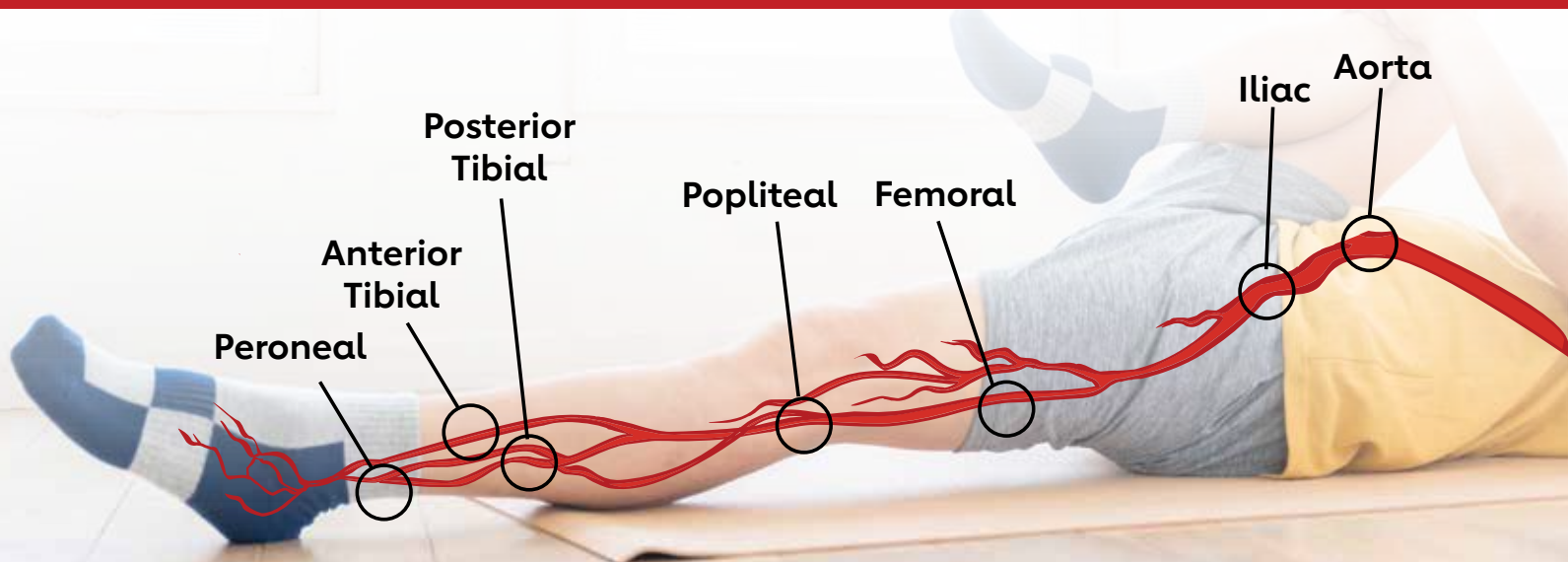
Peripheral artery disease refers to peripheral artery obstruction secondary to atherosclerotic disease.



~~PVD~~

**“PAD”** is the preferred term for Peripheral Artery Disease, not PVD

## Arteries Most Commonly Affected by PAD



PAD most commonly affects the lower extremities, but can also affect the upper extremities.



# Risk Factors for PAD



Older age



Diabetes



Smoking



Family history of PAD



Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)



Hyperlipidemia

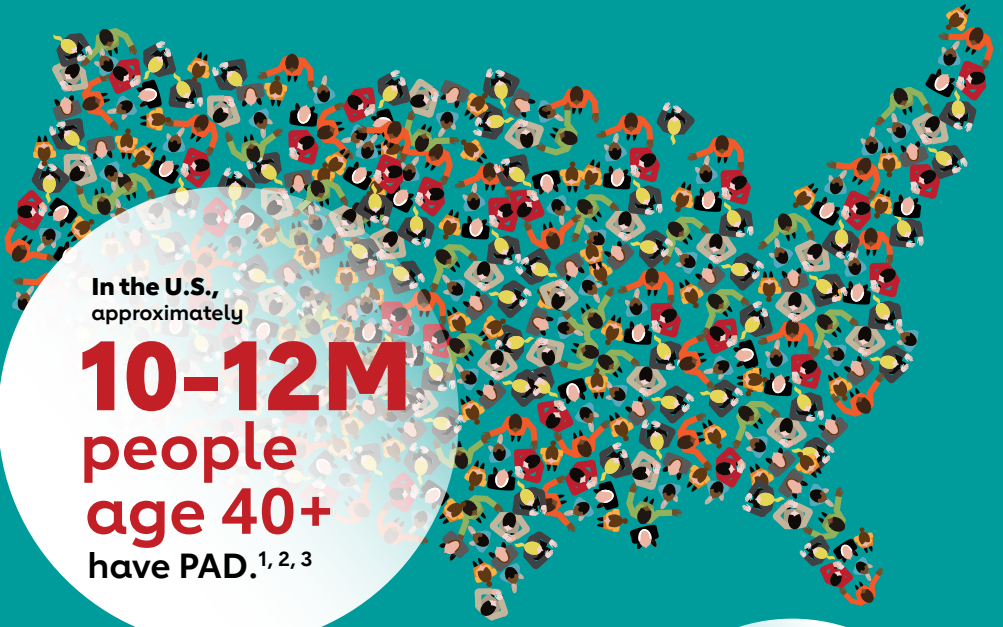


Hypertension



Atherosclerotic disease in another vascular bed

# Prevalence of PAD



## Lifetime risk of PAD

(80-year horizon)  
was estimated at: <sup>3,4,5</sup>

**19%**  
White people

**22%**  
Hispanic people

**29%**  
Black people

**PAD is overrepresented in the Black community.**



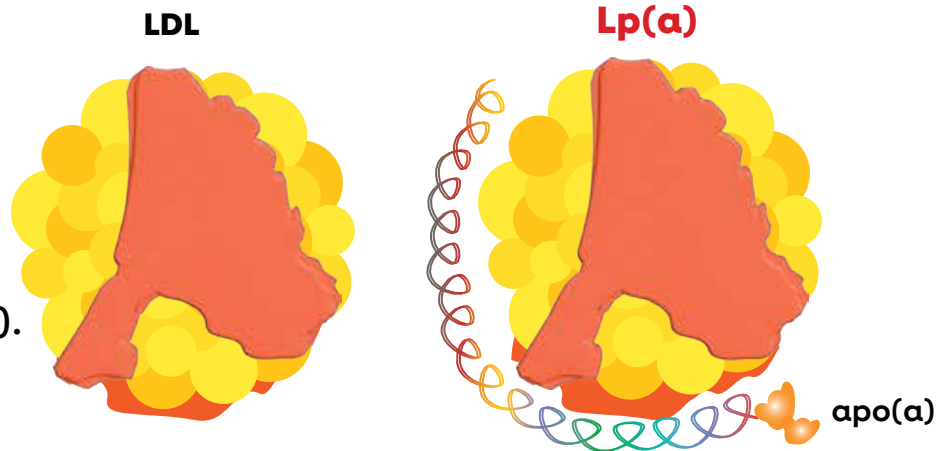
## Complications



of PAD are called major adverse limb events (MALE) and may include recurrent limb ischemia and/or amputation.

# Defining Lp(a) and Why It Matters

Lipoprotein(a) – Lp(a) – is composed of an LDL-like moiety that is covalently bound to apolipoprotein(a) – apo(a).



## Lp(a) is:

**80-90%**

Genetically determined<sup>6,7,8</sup>



While not completely defined, Lp(a) is believed to be produced in the liver with proinflammatory and proatherogenic properties.

## High Lp(a) promotes:

- Arterial thrombosis
- Inflammation
- Endothelial dysfunction
- Lipid deposition into artery wall

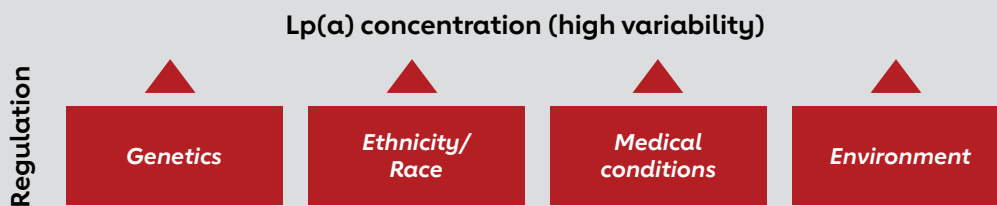
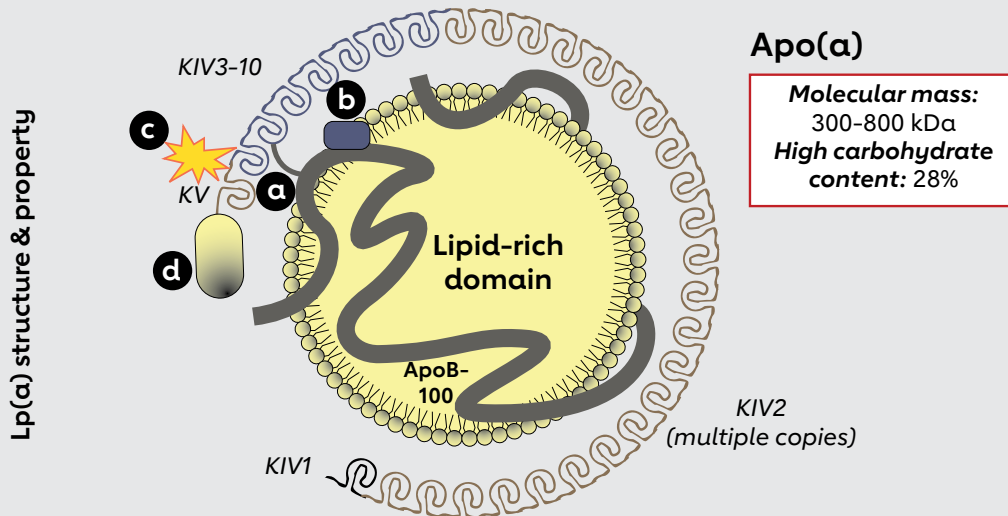
## Leading to:

- Atherosclerosis
- Thrombosis
- Calcific aortic stenosis



Epigenetic studies show an association between elevated Lp(a) levels and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD).<sup>9,10</sup>





Lp(a) serum level is associated with atherosclerotic cardiovascular diseases including stroke, myocardial infarction (MI), and PAD. Lp(a) is also a significant independent risk factor for PAD and is associated with more severe forms of PAD in specific populations.<sup>4</sup>



**An estimated 20-25% of the world's population has elevated levels of Lp(a).<sup>11</sup>**

# Why Is Lp(a) Important to Measure in Addition to LDL?

Elevated Lp(a) is an independent risk factor for coronary heart disease (CHD), PAD, cerebrovascular disease, and calcific aortic stenosis.



## Why would a clinician measure Lp(a)?



Elevated Lp(a) is a common independent atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease risk factor that is not measured in the majority of affected patients.

The only currently available method to know if someone has elevated Lp(a) is to measure Lp(a) with a simple blood test that is relatively inexpensive.

Awareness of the presence of elevated Lp(a) is important, because high Lp(a) increases atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease risk and could inform clinical decision-making regarding risk management.

Cascade screening of family members of patients with elevated Lp(a) may identify additional individuals with elevated Lp(a) because of its autosomal codominant inheritance pattern.<sup>12</sup>

## Lp(a) can be increased by:<sup>13</sup>

- a) CKD
- b) Liver disease
- c) Menopause



# Raising Awareness of Lp(a)

## Once an individual's Lp(a) levels are tested, do they need to be retested?

Although levels are generally stable over time, the levels can vary between labs or may increase after development of certain medical conditions, may decrease after treatment, and may otherwise vary. It may also be helpful to verify results with an outside lab before initiating therapies.

### Who to test?

2018 Guideline on the Management of Blood Cholesterol states the relative indications for measurement are family history of premature ASCVD or personal history of ASCVD not explained by major risk factors.<sup>14, 15, 16, 17</sup>



Those with borderline ASCVD risk to aid in discussion of risk modification therapies



Family or personal history of high Lp(a), heart disease, or premature cardiovascular disease



Diagnosis of familial hypercholesterolemia (FH) - an inherited condition<sup>18</sup>

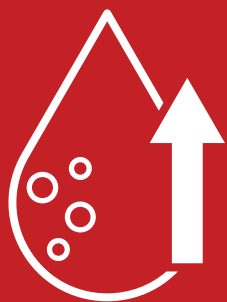
### How should one measure Lp(a)?<sup>12</sup>

#### Lp(a) should be measured with:

- ◆ An isoform-insensitive assay
- ◆ Assay that is traceable to the internationally accepted calibrator (World Health Organization/International Federation of Clinical Chemistry Reference Material SRM-2B)
- ◆ Assay that is reported in nanomoles per liter (nmol/l), when possible.

If measurements are not uniformly calibrated, one cannot compare measurements generated by different assays.

# Intersection of Lp(a) With PAD



## Lp(a) and Major Adverse Cardiovascular Event (MACE)

Elevated Lp(a) levels are independently associated with incident MACE and MALE in patients with PAD treated with revascularization irrespective of LDL-cholesterol (LDL-C) level and statin administration.<sup>12</sup>

Higher Lp(a) levels are independently associated with an increased risk of MALE in hospitalized patients.<sup>4</sup>

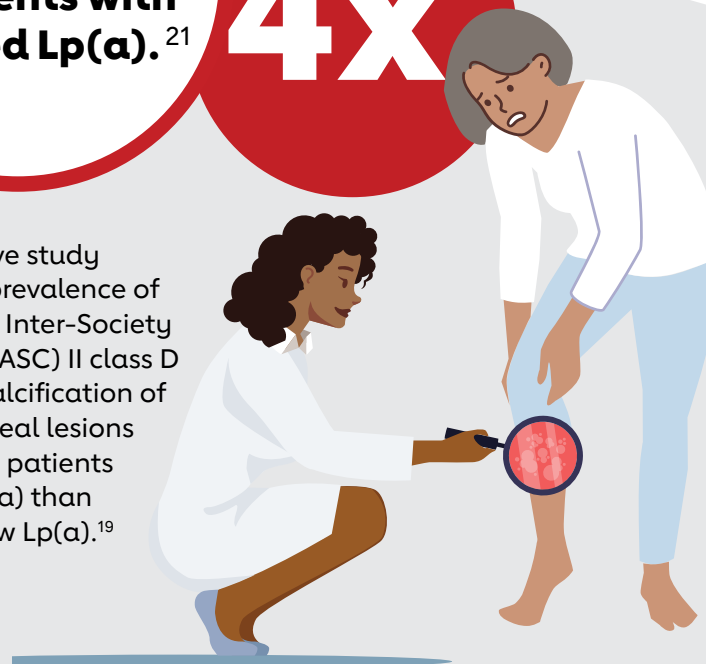
Findings from mechanistic, observational, and genetic studies support the causal role of Lp(a) in CVD, including CHD and PAD.<sup>19</sup>

Elevated Lp(a) levels are associated with an increased risk of MALE in hospitalized patients.<sup>20</sup>

**MALE is 4 times more common in patients with elevated Lp(a).**<sup>21</sup>

**4x**

A retrospective study showed the prevalence of TransAtlantic Inter-Society Consensus (TASC) II class D and severe calcification of femoropopliteal lesions was higher in patients with high Lp(a) than those with low Lp(a).<sup>19</sup>



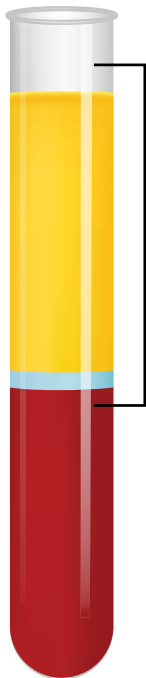
# High Lp(a) Is Associated With Increased MALE.<sup>21</sup>



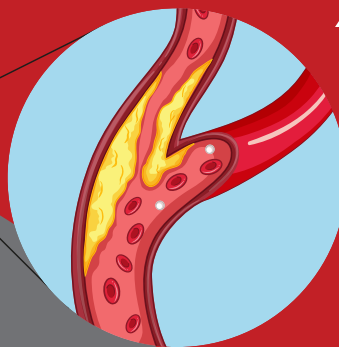
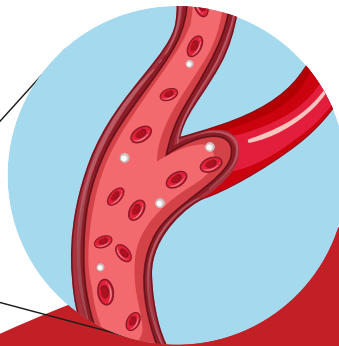
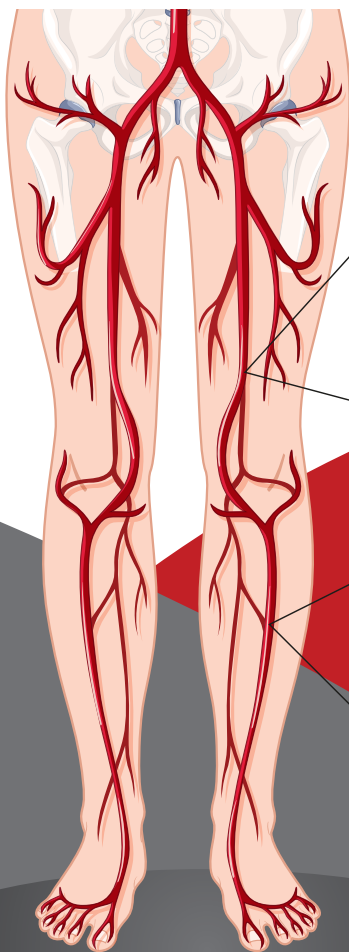
Elevated Lp(a) increases risk for MALE post-revascularization in

# 67.9%

of patients with PAD at 5 years regardless of LDL level and statin use (HR 4.15).<sup>21</sup>



Plasma Lp(a) is independently associated with first and consecutive MALE after iliofemoral endarterectomy.<sup>22</sup>



Elevated Lp(a) incurs a

# 33%

higher risk of lower extremity revascularization in patients with PAD.<sup>23</sup>



# Approaches for Lowering Lp(a)



## Lipoprotein Apheresis lowers Lp(a) acutely by **50-85%**<sup>12</sup>



FDA approved for patients with familial hypercholesterolemia who have ASCVD (such as MI, PAD, CVD) and LDL-C > 100 mg/dl on maximal tolerable drug and lifestyle therapy with or without Lp(a) > 60 mg/dl.<sup>12</sup>



Indirect evidence suggests that Lp(a) lowering with Lipoprotein Apheresis may be associated with decreased ASCVD risk.<sup>24</sup>



Results in **improved circulation, pain level, and walking distance** in those with elevated Lp(a) and severe PAD.<sup>25</sup>



**May reduce CV events** in FH patients with elevated Lp(a)  $\geq 60$  mg/dL.<sup>26, 27</sup>



## PCSK9 Inhibitors reduce Lp(a) up to **30%**<sup>17</sup>



Data from trials of monoclonal antibodies directed against PCSK9 demonstrated dramatic LDL-C lowering by an average of 50% to 60%, but also modest Lp(a) lowering of 25% to 30%.<sup>28</sup>



**FOURIER** trial: The PCSK9 inhibitor (PCSK9i) evolocumab lowered Lp(a) by a median of **27%** at **48 weeks**.<sup>14, 29</sup>



**ODYSSEY OUTCOMES** trial: 18,924 patients with recent acute coronary syndrome who were taking high-intensity statin demonstrated that the PCSK9i alirocumab reduced Lp(a) by **23%** after **4 months**.<sup>30</sup>



**ORION-11** (inclisiran) trial:<sup>31</sup> The placebo-corrected percentage reduction in Lp(a) levels from **baseline to Day 540** was **28.5%**.

We currently lack definitive proof that specific pharmacological lowering of Lp(a) reduces adverse cardiovascular outcomes. Many clinicians have the secondary goal of lowering Lp(a) in addition to lowering LDL-C and Apolipoprotein B (ApoB) in high-risk patients, in particular, when recurrent ASCVD events occur despite aggressive LDL-C lowering.<sup>12</sup>

# Emerging Experimental Therapies

## for Lp(a)

### Antisense Oligonucleotide (ASO)

a. **Pelacarsen** - may lower Lp(a) by about 80%

### CETP inhibitor

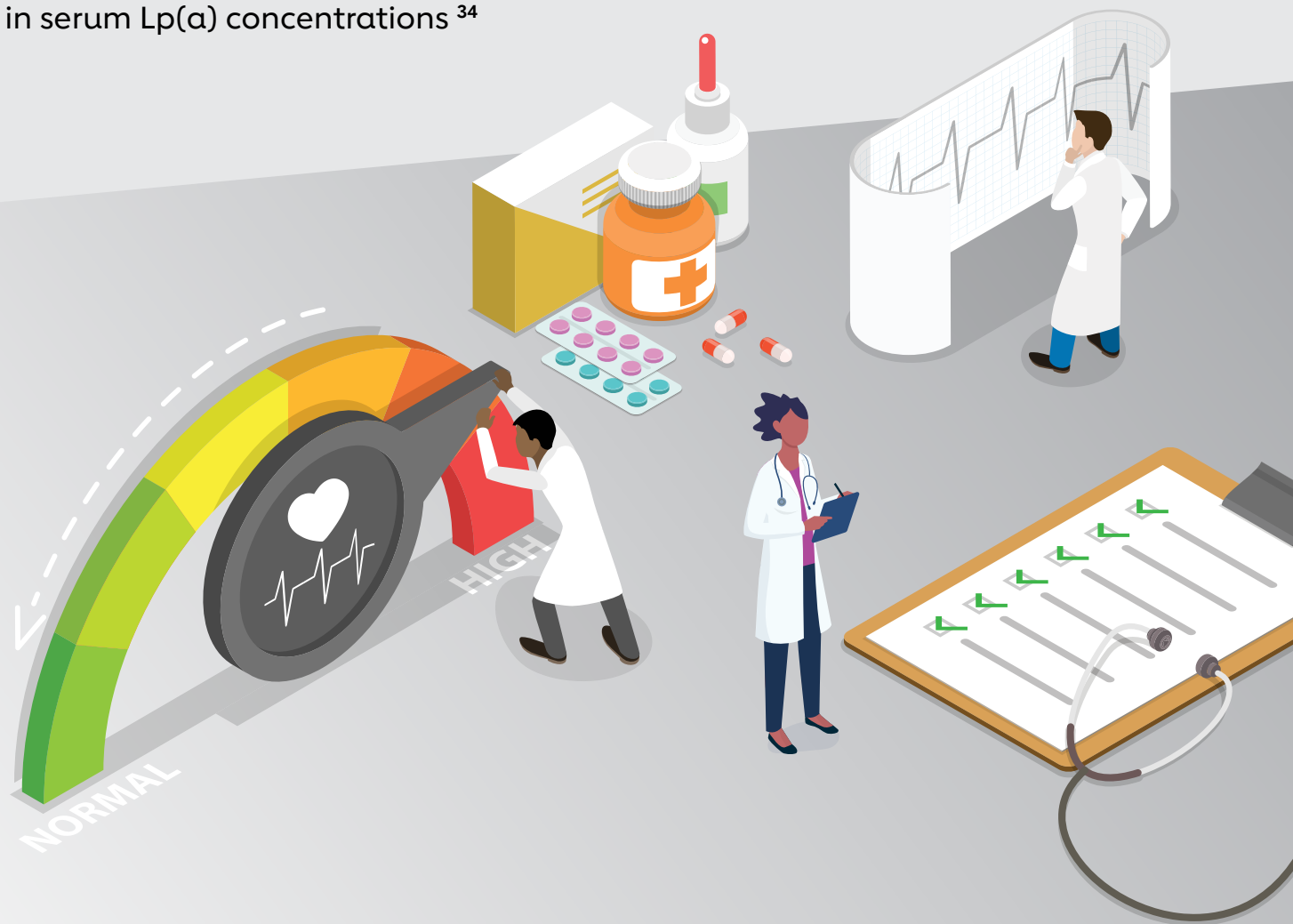
a. **Obicetrapib** - may lower Lp(a) by about 45%

### Small interfering RNA (siRNA)

a. **Olpasiran** - dose-dependent reduction with ASCVD <sup>32</sup>

b. **SLN360** - dose-dependent reduction of Lp(a) <sup>33</sup>

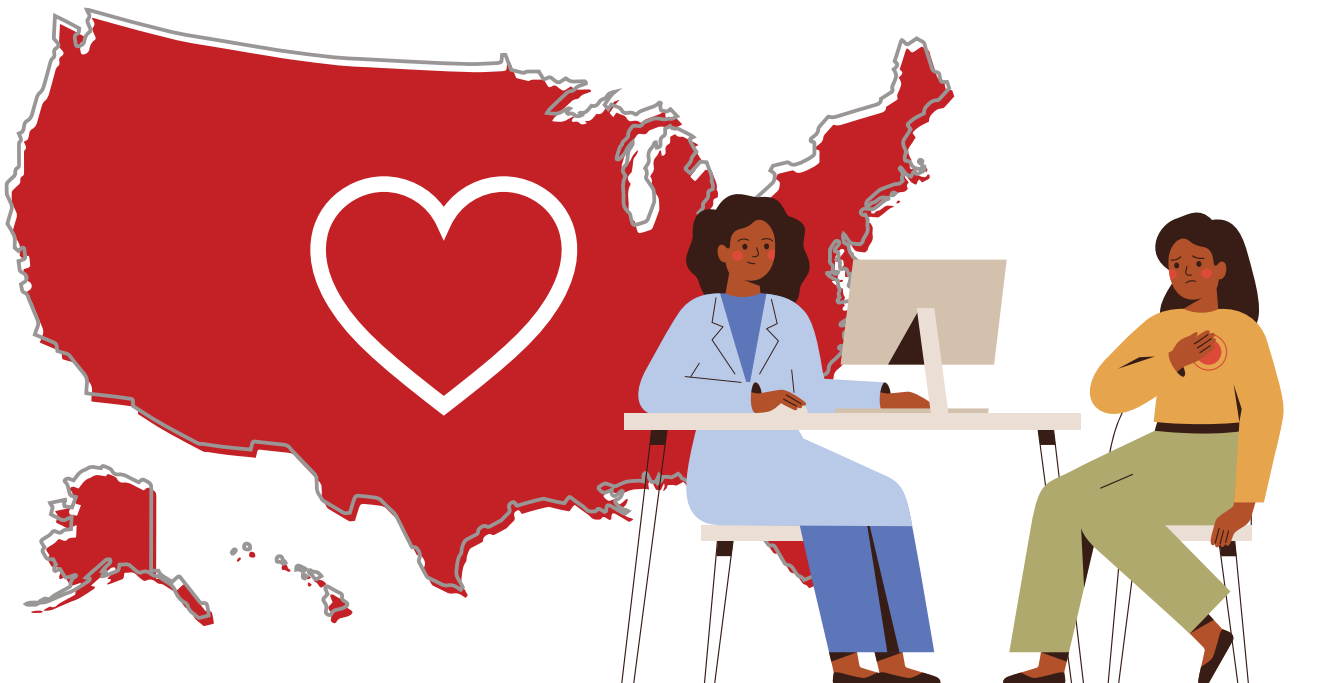
c. **Lepodisiran** - dose-dependent, long-duration reductions in serum Lp(a) concentrations <sup>34</sup>



# What Can Health Care Professionals (HCPs) Do Now?

## Shared Decision-Making<sup>35</sup>

- ✓ Relative indications for measuring Lp(a) are family history of premature ASCVD or personal history of ASCVD not explained by major risk factors.
- ✓ Verify insurance coverage of testing and treatments.
- ✓ Discuss new therapies in development.
- ✓ Intensify management of all other ASCVD risk factors, including LDL-C and non-HDL-C elevation. If measured, the Lp(a) level can be used as a risk-enhancing factor in this scenario.<sup>12</sup>





## Treat modifiable risk factors

Medical therapy and lifestyle changes include targeting diabetes (enhanced glucose control), smoking cessation, treating HTN and/or high LDL-C, sustained weight loss, and increasing physical activity.<sup>6</sup>



Initiate or increase statin intensity if elevated Lp(a), even if LDL-C is at goal.

## Follow the Guidelines

- ◆ 2019 AHA/ACC primary prevention of CVD.<sup>6</sup>
- ◆ An Lp(a)  $\geq 50$  mg/dL or  $\geq 125$  nmol/L is considered a risk-enhancing factor.<sup>12</sup>



Cascade screening of family members of a patient with high Lp(a) will identify elevated Lp(a) in family members. This allows affected family members to learn they have a hidden ASCVD risk factor, and provides an opportunity for them to intensify ASCVD preventive interventions.<sup>12</sup>

Lp(a) lowering is difficult, but proven therapies for ASCVD prevention should be implemented.



Lp(a) levels are 80–90% genetically influenced.<sup>6</sup>



Diet and exercise have not been shown to reduce Lp(a) levels.<sup>5,12</sup>



# Top Takeaways

- 1** Lp(a) is largely determined by genetics.
- 2** Lp(a) is elevated in approximately 20% of the general population. Elevated Lp(a) is overrepresented in the Black community.
- 3** Lp(a) elevation is known to drive atherosclerosis and intravascular inflammation, increasing the risk for ASCVD and PAD.
- 4** Patients with elevated Lp(a) have worse outcomes related to PAD and high incidence of MALE.
- 5** Patients with PAD are candidates for screening for Lp(a) elevation.
- 6** Lipoprotein Apheresis is currently the sole FDA-approved treatment for lowering Lp(a), only in individuals with clinically diagnosed Familial Hypercholesterolemia with documented coronary or peripheral artery disease and LDL-C levels greater than 100 mg/dL.<sup>36</sup>
- 7** Therapies to reduce Lp(a) levels are in development.





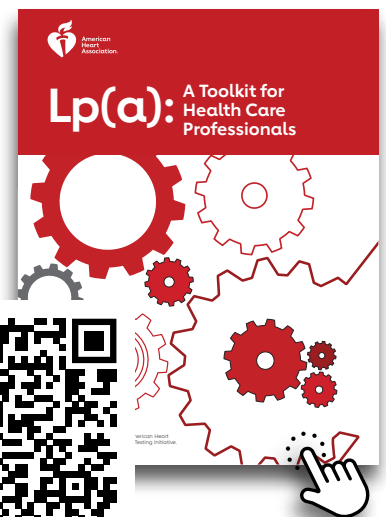
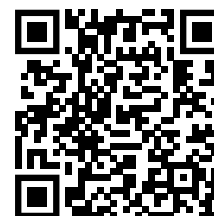




## Glossary

<b>Apo(a)</b> .....	Apolipoprotein(a)
<b>ApoB</b> .....	Apolipoprotein B
<b>ASCVD</b> .....	Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease
<b>CHD</b> .....	Coronary Heart Disease
<b>CKD</b> .....	Chronic Kidney Disease
<b>FH</b> .....	Familial Hypercholesterolemia
<b>HCP</b> .....	Health Care Professionals
<b>HoFH</b> .....	Homozygous Familial Hyperlipidemia
<b>LDL-C</b> .....	Low Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol
<b>Lp(a)</b> .....	Lipoprotein(a) (pronounced L-P-little-A) <sup>36</sup>
<b>MACE</b> .....	Major Adverse Cardiovascular Event
<b>MALE</b> .....	Major Adverse Limb Event
<b>PAD</b> .....	Peripheral Artery Disease
<b>PVD</b> .....	Peripheral Vascular Disease
<b>PCSK9 inhibitors</b> .....	PCSK9 Monoclonal Antibody
<b>siRNA</b> .....	Small Interfering RNA
<b>TASC</b> .....	TransAtlantic Inter-Society Consensus

**For more information on Lp(a), scan the QR code to download *Lp(a): A Toolkit for Health Care Professionals*.**



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