Management of Insignificant Arterial Stenosis

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Atherosclerosis is a chronic inflammatory disease with longstanding period of insignificant or asymptomatic stenosis. Progression of subclinical atherosclerosis or insignificant stenosis could eventually bring about clinical vascular event such as stroke, myocardial infarction and peripheral arterial disease. Therefore, some patients with subclinical disease might suffer from symptomatic vascular disease which could be prevented by interventions like statin, the strong inhibitor of atherosclerosis.

Some guidelines suggest the screening of subclinical atherosclerosis in patients with moderate-to-high risk of vascular disease, although we have not yet had sufficient evidence supporting the management of subclinical atherosclerosis. Carotid intima-media thickness, the characteristics of plaque, and arterial calcification could help to stratify the risk of subsequent vascular disease and make an individualized management plan.

This review offers the overview of the screening modalities and management of subclinical atherosclerosis based on guideline recommendations.