

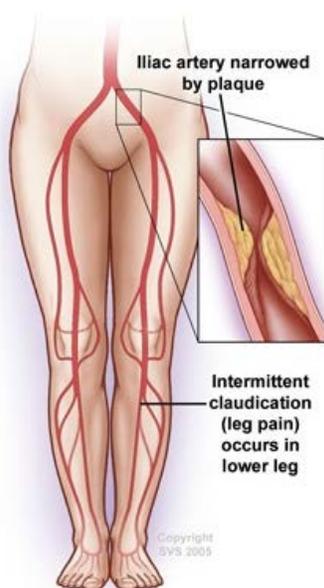


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# Hyperlipidemia

**ALSO CALLED** Hypercholesterolemia, familial hypercholesterolemia, elevated cholesterol, elevated cholesterol levels



## BY DR. GREGORY L. MONETA

Hyperlipidemia is an umbrella term that refers to any of several acquired or genetic disorders that result in a high level of lipids (fats, cholesterol and triglycerides) circulating in the blood. These lipids can enter the walls of arteries and increase your risk of developing **atherosclerosis** (hardening of the arteries), which can lead to **stroke**, heart attack and the need to **amputate**. The risk of atherosclerosis is higher if you smoke, or if you have or develop diabetes, high blood pressure and kidney failure.

### EXTREMELY COMMON

More than 3 million people have this genetic disorder in the United States and Europe. It is extremely common for those who live in developed countries and follow a Western high-fat diet.

### TREATABLE, USUALLY LIFE-LONG

Hyperlipidemia is usually chronic, requiring ongoing statin medication to control blood lipid levels.

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