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# Animal models of atherosclerosis

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## Abstract

An ideal animal model of atherosclerosis resembles human anatomy and pathophysiology and has the potential to be used in medical and pharmaceutical research to obtain results that can be extrapolated to human medicine. Moreover, it must be easy to acquire, can be maintained at a reasonable cost, is easy to handle and shares the topography of the lesions with humans. In general, animal models of atherosclerosis are based on accelerated plaque formation due to a cholesterol-rich/Western-type diet, manipulation of genes involved in the cholesterol metabolism, and the introduction of additional risk factors for atherosclerosis. Mouse and rabbit models have been mostly used, followed by pigs and non-human primates. Each of these models has its advantages and limitations. The mouse has become the predominant species to study experimental atherosclerosis because of

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