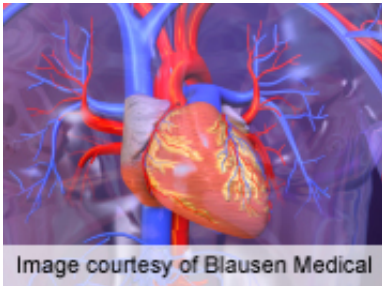


# Prognostic value of lipoprotein (a) with low cholesterol unclear

22 November 2013

studies with an average LDL cholesterol



(HealthDay)—Lipoprotein (a) (Lp[a]) has utility in assessing cardiovascular risk in patients with coronary artery disease (CAD); however, the prognostic value of Lp(a) in patients with low cholesterol levels remains unclear, according to a study published online Oct. 23 in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*.

Michelle O'Donoghue, M.D., from Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, and colleagues combined data from three studies of patients with CAD (6,762 participants) and eight previously published studies in which plasma Lp(a) was measured (for a total of 18,979 patients).

The researchers found that increasing levels of Lp(a) were not associated with [cardiovascular event](#) risk when modeled as a continuous variable (OR, 1.03) or by quintile (OR Q5:Q1, 1.05), based on data from the three studies. Utilizing the total combined data, subjects with Lp(a) levels in the highest quintile were at increased risk of cardiovascular events (OR, 1.40); however, there was significant between-study heterogeneity ( $P = 0.001$ ). The association between Lp(a) and cardiovascular events, when stratified on the basis of low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol, was significant in studies in which average LDL cholesterol was  $\geq 130$  mg/dL (OR, 1.46;  $P < 0.001$ ), whereas this relationship was not significant for

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