

When do we treat hypercholesterolemia?

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Although the relationships between elevated total and low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol and coronary heart disease (CHD) are relatively well established and published treatment guidelines are available, clinicians face a number of complex issues when deciding whom to treat. Specific patient characteristics and potential risk factors, of which less is known, may influence treatment decisions. In this presentation, the current guidelines for treating patients with hypercholesterolemia are reviewed and therapeutic issues that must be considered when selecting patients for treatment are identified.