

# Artery dissection

Extra cranial [carotid artery dissection](#) and [vertebral artery dissection](#) is an important cause of [stroke](#), especially in young people.

In some observational studies it has been associated with a high risk of recurrent stroke.

Both [antiplatelet](#) drugs and [anticoagulant](#) drugs are used to reduce risk of stroke

In the [Cervical Artery Dissection in Stroke Study](#) no difference in efficacy of antiplatelet and anticoagulant drugs at preventing stroke and death in patients with symptomatic carotid and vertebral artery dissection but stroke was rare in both groups, and much rarer than reported in some observational studies. Diagnosis of dissection was not confirmed after review in many cases, suggesting that radiographic criteria are not always correctly applied in routine clinical practice <sup>1)</sup>.

<sup>1)</sup>

CADISS trial investigators, Markus HS, Hayter E, Levi C, Feldman A, Venables G, Norris J. Antiplatelet treatment compared with anticoagulation treatment for cervical artery dissection (CADISS): a randomised trial. Lancet Neurol. 2015 Apr;14(4):361-7. doi: 10.1016/S1474-4422(15)70018-9. Epub 2015 Feb 12. Erratum in: Lancet Neurol. 2015 Jun;14(6):566. PubMed PMID: 25684164.

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