

Atherosclerotic carotid artery disease

Atherosclerotic [plaques](#) begin to form in the [carotid artery](#) at 20 yrs of age. In the extracranial [cerebral circulation](#), plaques typically start on the back wall of the [common carotid artery](#) (CCA). As they enlarge, they encroach on the lumen of the [ICA](#). Calcified hard plaques may not change with time. The risk of [stroke](#) correlates with the degree of [stenosis](#) and with certain types of plaque morphology, and is also increased in hypercoagulable states and with increased [blood viscosity](#).

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Last update: **2024/06/07 02:50**

