



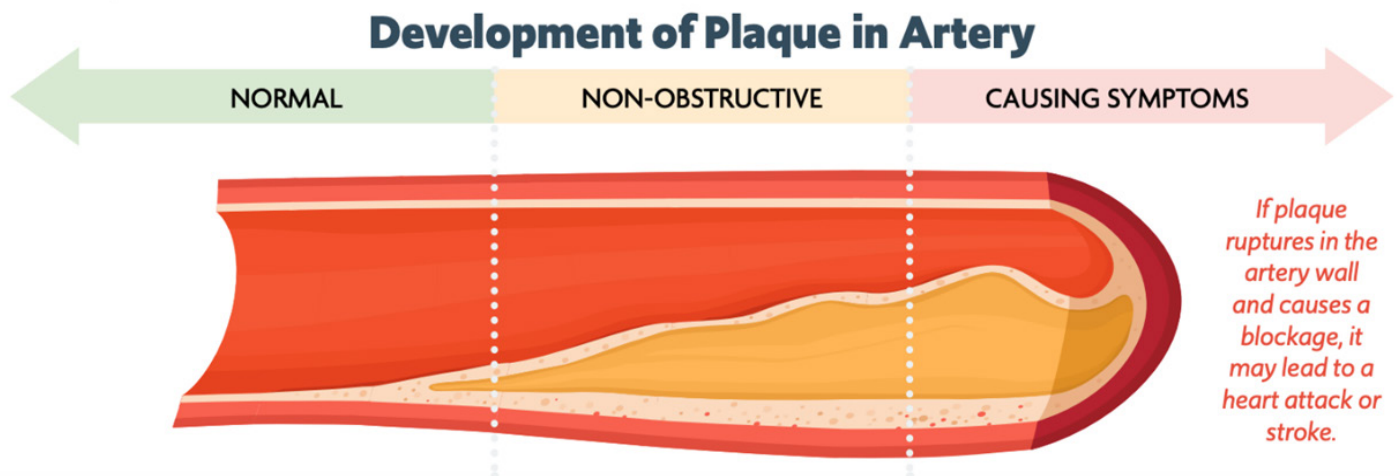
PCSK9 INHIBITORS (ALIROCUMAB & EVOLOCUMAB)

What are PCSK9 inhibitors (PCSK9-i)?

Several medications can help lower low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C). The most commonly prescribed medications are statins. When patients have very high levels of LDL-C, or have atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, they may need additional medications to help further lower their LDL-C. This is when PCSK9-i such as alirocumab or evolocumab may be prescribed. They are prescription medications that work by binding to a protein, leading to increased removal of LDL-C in your blood.

Why should you lower LDL cholesterol (LDL-C)?

Elevated levels of LDL-C are a risk factor for developing heart disease. LDL-C can accumulate in the walls of the arteries and create atherosclerosis (plaque), which may result in a heart attack or stroke.



How are PCSK9-i taken?

PCSK9-i are prescription medications that are administered by injecting the medication under your skin. These sub-cutaneous injections can be taken every 2 weeks or once-a-month depending on the dose prescribed. You can administer the medication to yourself at home; you do not need to come to your doctor's office to receive the dose.

Which patients might take PCSK9-i?

1. Patients who can't take statins due to side effects or other reasons.
2. Patients who are taking a statin but need to lower their LDL-C more.

Adding a PCSK9-i to statin therapy has been shown to reduce LDL-C, arterial plaque, and cardiovascular events in research studies. Typically, PCSK9-i lower LDL-C by an additional 45-64% beyond statin therapy.

What to expect when starting PCSK9-i?

PCSK9-i have few side effects, but may include injection reactions like redness or itchiness where you inject. Mild flu-like symptoms may be present early and should improve within a few doses. Your healthcare provider may order blood work before starting PCSK9-i and will ask you to repeat these in a few months to monitor your blood levels of cholesterol.