

MEDICAL EDUCATION

SPEAKERS NETWORK

ESTD  DATE

Medical Education Trending Topic

Heart Disease in Women

Lecture Summary

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for women in the United States, killing **299,578 women in 2017, or about 1 in every 5 female deaths**. About 1 in 16 women age 20 and older have coronary heart disease (CAD), which is the most common type of heart disease. While CAD is quite common in women, it has become clear in the past few years that CAD in women can be quite different from CAD in men. This makes the correct diagnosis of CAD a challenge in women. Although some women have no symptoms, others may have angina, pain in the neck, jaw or throat, and pain in the upper abdomen or back. Physicians need to be able to recognize the signs and symptoms of coronary artery disease in women and order the appropriate diagnostic tests.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this activity, the learners will be able to:

- Recognize the risk factors and perform an appropriate risk assessment for cardiovascular disease in women
- Order appropriate diagnostic testing
- Manage acute and chronic coronary artery disease in women
- Cite contributing factors of heart disease in women, such as age, ethnic background, and culture

References

<https://www.cdc.gov/heartdisease/women.htm>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6206467/>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6479531/>