

Dual lipid-lowering strategy with ezetimibe and atorvastatin regresses coronary plaques in patients with percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI)

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- **Despite statin therapy, a majority of patients retain a high "residual risk" of cardiovascular events.**
- A randomized, multicenter study evaluated effects of ezetimibe plus atorvastatin vs. atorvastatin monotherapy on lipid profile and coronary atherosclerosis in 202 Japanese patients who underwent PCI.
 - Intravascular ultrasound was used to quantify the coronary plaque response.
- **The combination of atorvastatin/ezetimibe resulted in:**
 - Lower LDL-C
 - Reduction in atheroma volume
 - Greater percentage of patients with coronary plaque regression
- **Low incidence** of laboratory abnormalities and cardiovascular events

Compared with standard statin monotherapy, the combination of statin plus ezetimibe showed greater coronary plaque regression, which might be attributed to cholesterol absorption inhibition-induced aggressive lipid lowering.