

Summary

Atherosclerosis is a progressive multifactor process which begins during childhood and ends at a spectrum of severe vascular diseases which are the main cause of mortality in Western countries. During 20th century there was a remarkable evolution in theories involving atherosclerosis and its pathogenesis. The present study consists of ten chapters. In the first five of them the molecular biology of atherosclerosis is being described. Chapter six briefly analyses the term risk factor. In chapters 7 and 8 risk factors like smoking, hypertension, dyslipidemia, metabolic syndrome, diabetes, obesity, mental stress, and depression are being described and their impact on the process of atherosclerosis is analysed. In chapter 9 newer risk factors, like hsCRP, homocystein, lipoprotein(a) and other inflammatory factors are mentioned. In chapter 10 we report epidemiological data which derived from quantitative measurements of biochemical markers (hsCRP, homocysteine, lipoprotein a, apolipoprotein A-1 and apolipoprotein –B) in patients who suffered a heart attack and were hospitalized for this reason in Drama General Hospital between the years 2004-2009 and we come to relative conclusions.

Key words: atherosclerosis, hyperlipidemia, homocysteine, hsCRP, cholesterol, apolipoproteins