

# Patients at high risk of recurrences of heart disease: Breakthrough in prevention

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The results of a major clinical study carried out at the Montreal Heart Institute (MHI) by Dr. Jean-Claude Tardif are now available in the journal *Circulation Cardiovascular Imaging*. Dr. Tardif is a cardiologist and director of the MHI Research Centre, as well as a professor in the faculty of medicine and holder of the atherosclerosis research chair at the University of Montreal.

The promising findings of this study on VIA-2291 - a medication developed by Via Pharmaceuticals, a San Francisco-based biotechnology firm - relate to its capacity to effectively reduce [inflammation](#), which can contribute to the formation and progression of atherosclerosis plaque and infarct.

"Up to now, standard treatments for patients with [acute coronary syndrome](#) ([unstable angina](#) and infarct) have not specifically reduced inflammation, an important component of atherosclerosis. However, research in recent years has allowed us to determine that the presence of inflammation significantly increases the risk of recurrence among these patients. The clinical study was conducted with about 200 patients, and the findings we're publishing show that VIA-2291 may finally offer the solution we need to target and reduce inflammation. In fact, these newly published data strongly support the evaluation of VIA-2291 in larger outcome trials," said Dr. Tardif.

The Montreal Heart Institute's Research Centre directed the study in several hospitals in Canada and the United States as well as analyzed all

of the data, including data collected by CAT scans of coronary arteries.

"The publication of this new study attests once again to the excellence of the entire team at the Montreal [Heart](#) Institute's Research Centre. While we're clearly satisfied with the findings obtained with VIA-2291, we're even more thrilled at the prospect of taking a big step toward more effective and personalized prevention of cardiovascular disease," concluded Dr. Tardif.

Provided by University of Montreal

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