

# Heart arrhythmia drug may fight plaque buildup in blood vessels

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Human heart. Credit: copyright American Heart Association

New research in mice provides convincing evidence that digoxin, a drug prescribed to treat atrial fibrillation, can help protect against atherosclerosis.

Investigators found that [digoxin](#) decreased the levels of total cholesterol, triglycerides and LDL-cholesterol by 41%, 54%, and 20%, respectively, in mice treated with high-dose digoxin compared with control mice.

The findings are published in the *British Journal of Pharmacology*.

**More information:** Huairui Shi et al. Digoxin reduces atherosclerosis in apolipoprotein E-deficient mice, *British Journal of Pharmacology* (2016). [DOI: 10.1111/bph.13453](https://doi.org/10.1111/bph.13453)

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