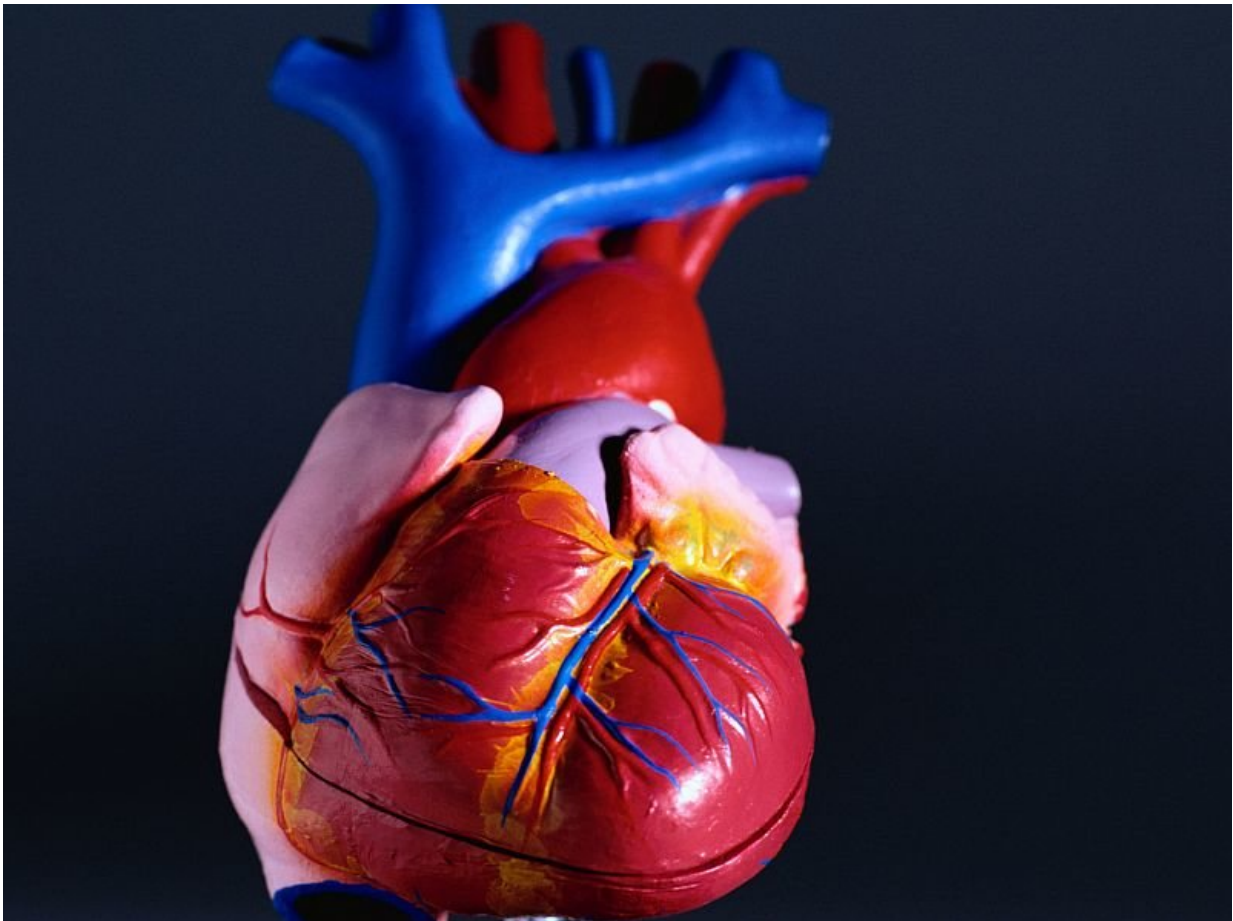


Silent myocardial infarction linked to heart failure risk

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(HealthDay)—Silent myocardial infarction (SMI) is associated with an

increased long-term risk of heart failure, according to a study published in the Jan. 2 issue of the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*.

Waqas T. Qureshi, M.D., from the Wake Forest School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, N.C., and colleagues examined the correlation of SMI and clinically manifested [myocardial infarction](#) (CMI) with heart failure in an analysis of 9,243 participants from the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) study. Participants were free of cardiovascular disease at baseline (ARIC visit 1: 1987 to 1989).

The researchers found that 305 SMIs and 331 CMIs occurred between ARIC visits 1 and 4 (1996 to 1998). A total of 976 heart failure events occurred after ARIC visit 4 and during a median follow-up of 13 years. Compared to those without MI, participants with CMI and SMI had an increased incidence rate of heart failure (incidence rates per 1,000 person-years, 30.4, 16.2, and 7.8, respectively). Both SMI and CMI were correlated with increased risk of heart failure compared with no MI in a model adjusted for demographics and heart failure risk factors (hazard ratios, 1.35 and 2.85, respectively); these associations were consistent in subgroups stratified by heart failure risk predictors.

"Future research is needed to examine the cost-effectiveness of screening for SMI as part of [heart](#) failure risk assessment, and to identify preventive therapies to improve the risk of [heart failure](#) among patients with SMI," the authors write.

One author disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical and medical device industries.

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