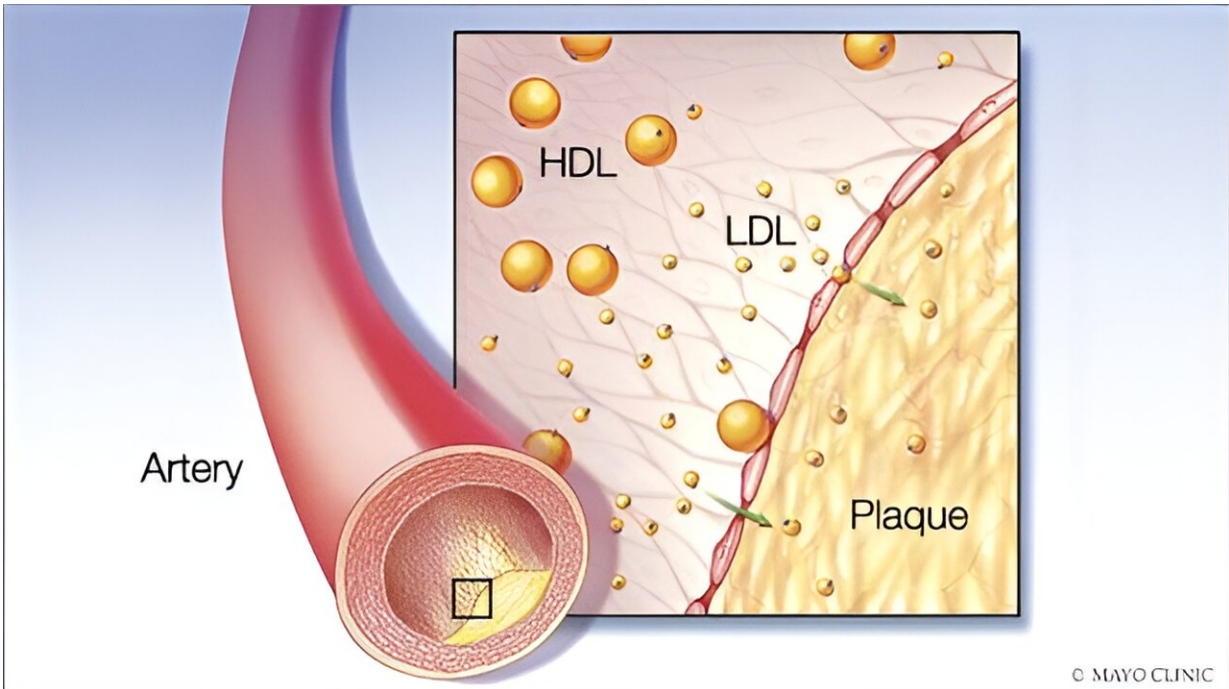


Video: Who benefits from taking statins?

October 4 2023, by Deb Balzer



A medical illustration of cholesterol plaque in an artery. Credit: Mayo Clinic News Network

If you're at risk of heart disease, your health care team might use the pooled cohort equation (PCE) tool to determine your long-term risk and whether taking statins—cholesterol-lowering medication—is a good option.

Dr. Francisco Lopez-Jimenez, a Mayo Clinic cardiologist, says it's

important to understand who benefits the most from statins.

Statins are medications that reduce the amount of cholesterol made by the liver.

"Cholesterol builds within plaques that accumulate and grow inside the arteries, sometimes to the point that those arteries will be blocked," says Dr. Lopez-Jimenz.

And blocked [arteries](#) can lead to [coronary heart disease](#). But are statins for everyone?

"The patients that will benefit from taking [statins](#) the most will be individuals with history of heart attacks, strokes and other conditions known to be caused by cholesterol plaques," he says.

Diet also plays an important role. Dr. Lopez-Jimenez says to eat less processed meat and more grains, fruits and vegetables.

"The most impactful changes people can make to lower cholesterol will include consuming less animal products other than fish, consuming less saturated fat," he says.

And if your health care team recommends medication as well as [lifestyle changes](#)?

"Take those medications, check your numbers, be sure that all those factors are well under control," says Dr. Lopez-Jimenez.

Provided by Mayo Clinic

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