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part I: general considerations, the
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CLINICAL CARDIOLOGY: NEW FRONTIERS

Global Burden of Cardiovascular Diseases

Part I: General Considerations, the Epidemiologic Transition, Risk Factors, and
Impact of Urbanization

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Jump to

Article

Abstract

Acknowledgments

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Abstract

This two-part article provides an overview of the global burden of atherothrombotic cardiovascular disease. Part I initially discusses the epidemiologic transition which has resulted in a decrease in deaths in childhood due to infections, with a concomitant increase in cardiovascular and other chronic diseases; and then provides estimates of the burden of cardiovascular (CV) diseases with specific focus on the developing countries. Next, we summarize key information on risk factors for cardiovascular disease (CVD) and indicate that their importance may have been underestimated. Then, we describe overarching factors influencing variations in CVD by ethnicity and region and the influence of urbanization. Part II of this article describes the burden of CV disease by specific region or ethnic group, the risk factors of importance, and possible strategies for prevention.

heart diseases epidemiology prevention

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Next ▶

This Issue

Circulation

November 27, 2001, Volume 104, Issue 22

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