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Measurements of LDL-C and Non-HDL-C

Recommendations for Measurements of LDL-C and Non-HDL-C		
COR	**LOE**	**Recommendations**
I	**B-NR**	**In adults who are 20 years of age or older and not on lipid-lowering therapy, measurement of either a fasting or a nonfasting plasma lipid profile is effective in estimating ASCVD risk and documenting baseline LDL-C.**
I	**B-NR**	**In adults who are 20 years of age or older and in whom an initial nonfasting lipid profile reveals a triglycerides level of 400 mg/dL (≥4.5 mmol/L) or higher, a repeat lipid profile in the fasting state should be performed for assessment of fasting triglyceride levels and baseline LDL-C.**

Secondary Prevention

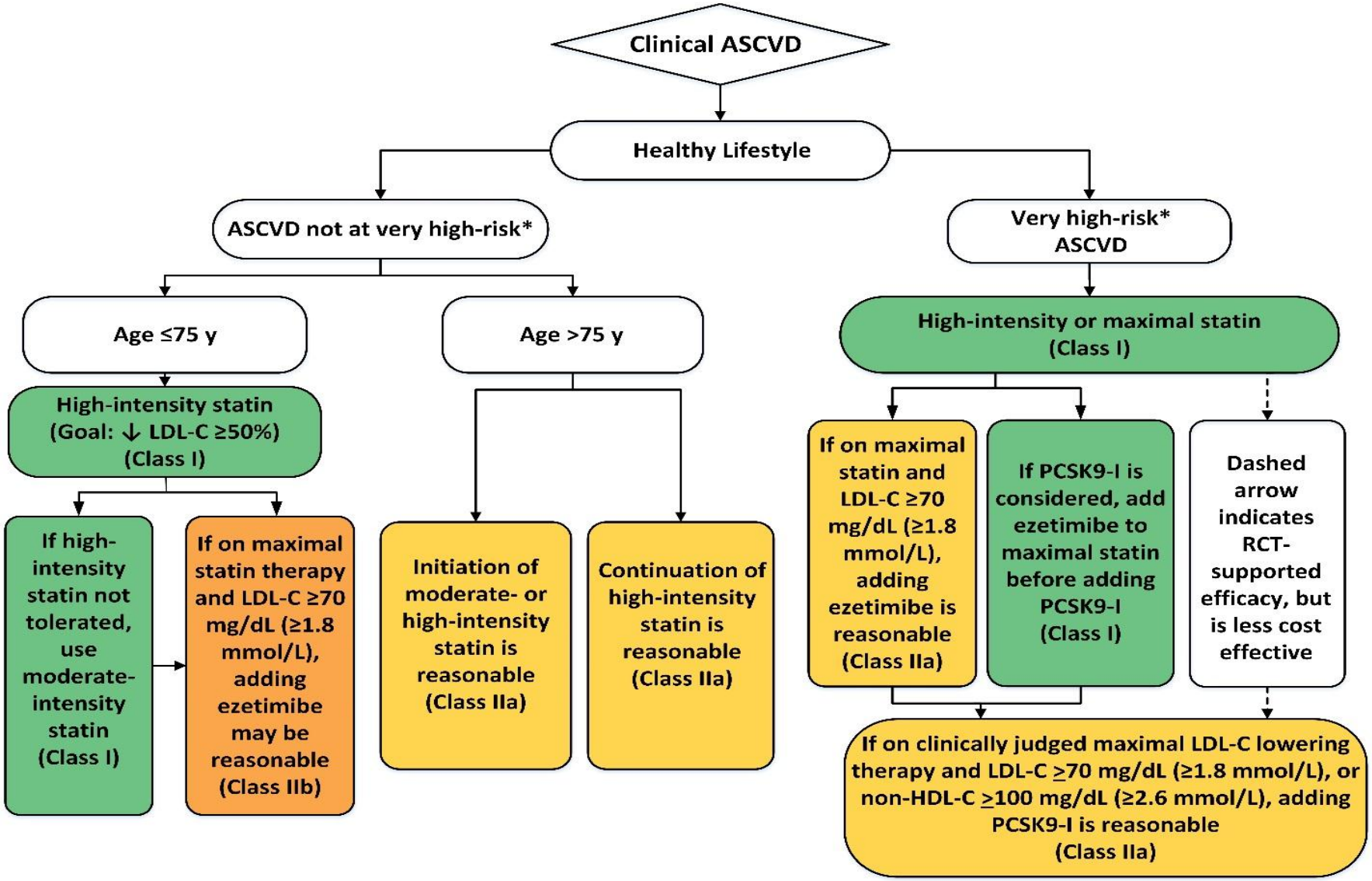

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Table 4. Very High-Risk* of Future ASCVD Events

Major ASCVD Events
Recent ACS (within the past 12 mo)
History of MI (other than recent ACS event listed above)
History of ischemic stroke
Symptomatic peripheral arterial disease (history of claudication with ABI <0.85, or previous revascularization or amputation)

Primary Prevention:
Assess ASCVD Risk in Each Age Group
Emphasize Adherence to Healthy Lifestyle

Age 0-19 y
Lifestyle to prevent or reduce ASCVD risk
Diagnosis of Familial Hypercholesterolemia→ statin

Age 20-39 y
Estimate lifetime risk
to encourage lifestyle to reduce ASCVD risk
Consider statin if family history premature ASCVD and LDL-C ≥160 mg/dL (≥4.1 mmol/L)

Age 40-75 y and LDL-C ≥70-<190 mg/dL (≥1.8-<4.9 mmol/L) without diabetes mellitus
10-year ASCVD risk percent begins risk discussion

LDL-C ≥190 mg/dL (≥4.9 mmol/L)
No risk assessment; High-intensity statin
(Class I)

Diabetes mellitus and age 40-75 y
Moderate-intensity statin
(Class I)

Diabetes mellitus and age 40-75 y
Risk assessment to consider high-intensity statin
(Class IIa)

Age >75 y
Clinical assessment, Risk discussion

ASCVD Risk Enhancers:

- Family history of premature ASCVD
- Persistently elevated LDL-C ≥160 mg/dL (≥4.1 mmol/L)
- Chronic kidney disease
- Metabolic syndrome
- Conditions specific to women (e.g., preeclampsia, premature menopause)
- Inflammatory diseases (especially rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, HIV)
- Ethnicity (e.g., South Asian ancestry)

<u>Lipid/Biomarkers:</u>

- Persistently elevated triglycerides (≥175 mg/dL, (≥2.0 mmol/L))

<u>In selected individuals if measured:</u>

- hs-CRP ≥2.0 mg/L
- Lp(a) levels >50 mg/dL or >125 nmol/L
- apoB ≥130 mg/dL
- Ankle-brachial index (ABI) <0.9

<5%
"Low Risk"

Risk discussion:
Emphasize lifestyle to reduce risk factors
(Class I)

5% - <7.5%
"Borderline Risk"

Risk discussion:
If risk enhancers present then risk discussion regarding moderate-intensity statin therapy
(Class IIb)

≥7.5% - <20%
"Intermediate Risk"

Risk discussion:
If risk estimate + risk enhancers favor statin, initiate moderate-intensity statin to reduce LDL-C by 30% - 49%
(Class I)

≥20%
"High Risk"

Risk discussion:
Initiate statin to reduce LDL-C ≥50%
(Class I)

If risk decision is uncertain:
Consider measuring CAC in selected adults:
CAC = zero (lowers risk; consider no statin, unless diabetes, family history of premature CHD, or cigarette smoking are present)
CAC = 1-99 favors statin (especially after age 55)
CAC = 100+ and/or ≥75th percentile, initiate statin therapy

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Monitoring in Response to LDL-C–Lowering Therapy

Recommendation for Monitoring		
COR	**LOE**	**Recommendation**
I	**A**	**Adherence to changes in lifestyle and effects of LDL-C–lowering medication should be assessed by measurement of fasting lipids and appropriate safety indicators 4 to 12 weeks after statin initiation or dose adjustment and every 3 to 12 months thereafter based on need to assess adherence or safety.**

Primary Prevention in Other Age Groups (Children and Adolescents)

Recommendations for Children and Adolescents		
COR	**LOE**	**Recommendations**
IIa	**B-R**	**In children and adolescents 10 years of age or older with an LDL-C level persistently 190 mg/dL (≥4.9 mmol/L) or higher or 160 mg/dL (4.1 mmol/L) or higher with a clinical presentation consistent with FH (see Section 4.2.) and who do not respond adequately with 3 to 6 months of lifestyle therapy, it is reasonable to initiate statin therapy.**
IIa	**B-NR**	**In children and adolescents with a family history of either early CVD* or significant hypercholesterolemia,† it is reasonable to measure a fasting or nonfasting lipoprotein profile as early as age 2 years to detect FH or rare forms of hypercholesterolemia.**

Hypertriglyceridemia

Recommendations for Hypertriglyceridemia		
COR	**LOE**	**Recommendations**
I	B-NR	In adults 20 years of age or older with moderate hypertriglyceridemia (fasting or nonfasting triglycerides 175 to 499 mg/dL [1.9 to 5.6 mmol/L]), clinicians should address and treat lifestyle factors (obesity and metabolic syndrome), secondary factors (diabetes mellitus, chronic liver or kidney disease and/or nephrotic syndrome, hypothyroidism), and medications that increase triglycerides.
IIa	B-R	In adults 40 to 75 years of age with moderate or severe hypertriglyceridemia and ASCVD risk of 7.5% or higher, it is reasonable to reevaluate ASCVD risk after lifestyle and secondary factors are addressed and to consider a persistently elevated triglyceride level as a factor favoring initiation or intensification of statin therapy (see Section 4.4.2.).

Hypertriglyceridemia

Recommendations for Hypertriglyceridemia		
COR	**LOE**	**Recommendations**
IIa	**B-R**	**In adults 40 to 75 years of age with severe hypertriglyceridemia (fasting triglycerides ≥500 mg/dL [≥5.6 mmol/L]) and ASCVD risk of 7.5% or higher, it is reasonable to address reversible causes of high triglyceride and to initiate statin therapy.**
IIa	**B-NR**	**In adults with severe hypertriglyceridemia (fasting triglycerides ≥500 mg/dL [≥5.7 mmol/L]), and especially fasting triglycerides ≥1000 mg/dL (11.3 mmol/L)), it is reasonable to identify and address other causes of hypertriglyceridemia), and if triglycerides are persistently elevated or increasing, to further reduce triglycerides by implementation of a very low-fat diet, avoidance of refined carbohydrates and alcohol, consumption of omega-3 fatty acids, and, if necessary to prevent acute pancreatitis, fibrate therapy.**

Statin Safety and Statin-Associated Side Effects

Table 11. Statin-Associated Side Effects

Statin-Associated Side Effects	Frequency	Predisposing Factors	Quality of Evidence
Statin-associated muscle symptoms (SAMS)			
Myalgias (CK Normal)	Infrequent (1% to 5%) in RCTs; frequent (5% to 10%) in observational studies and clinical setting	Age, female sex, low body mass index, high-risk medications (CYP3A4 inhibitors, OATP1B1 inhibitors), comorbidities (HIV, renal, liver, thyroid, preexisting myopathy), Asian ancestry, excess alcohol, high levels of physical activity, and trauma	RCTs cohorts/observational
Myositis/myopathy (CK > ULN) with concerning symptoms or objective weakness	Rare		RCTs cohorts/observational
Rhabdomyolysis (CK >10 × ULN + renal injury)	Rare		RCTs cohorts/observational
Statin-associated autoimmune myopathy (HMGCR antibodies, incomplete resolution)	Rare		Case reports
New-onset diabetes mellitus	Depends on population; more frequent if diabetes mellitus risk factors are present, such as body mass index ≥30, fasting blood sugar ≥100 mg/dL; metabolic syndrome, or A1c ≥6%.	Diabetes mellitus risk factors/metabolic syndrome High-intensity statin therapy	RCTs/meta-analyses

STATIN TREATMENT
Primary Prevention

Recommendations

10.19 For patients with diabetes aged 40–75 years without atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, use moderate-intensity statin therapy in addition to lifestyle therapy. **A**

10.20 For patients with diabetes aged 20–39 years with additional atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease risk factors, it may be reasonable to initiate statin therapy in addition to lifestyle therapy. **C**

10.21 In patients with diabetes at higher risk, especially those with multiple atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease risk factors or aged 50–70 years, it is reasonable to use high-intensity statin therapy. **B**

10.22 In adults with diabetes and 10-year atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease risk of 20% or higher, it may be reasonable to add ezetimibe to maximally tolerated statin therapy to reduce LDL cholesterol levels by 50% or more. **C**

Treatment of Other Lipoprotein Fractions or Targets

Recommendations

10.29 For patients with fasting triglyceride levels ≥500 mg/dL, evaluate for secondary causes of hypertriglyceridemia and consider medical therapy to reduce the risk of pancreatitis. **C**

10.30 In adults with moderate hypertriglyceridemia (fasting or nonfasting triglycerides 175–499 mg/dL), clinicians should address and treat lifestyle factors (obesity and metabolic syndrome), secondary factors (diabetes, chronic liver or kidney disease and/or nephrotic syndrome, hypothyroidism), and medications that raise triglycerides. **C**

10.31 In patients with atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease or other cardiovascular risk factors on a statin with controlled LDL cholesterol but elevated triglycerides (135–499 mg/dL), the addition of icosapent ethyl can be considered to reduce cardiovascular risk. **A**

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Other Combination Therapy

Recommendations

10.32 Statin plus fibrate combination therapy has not been shown to improve atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease outcomes and is generally not recommended. **A**

10.33 Statin plus niacin combination therapy has not been shown to provide additional cardiovascular benefit above statin therapy alone, may increase the risk of stroke with additional side effects, and is generally not recommended. **A**

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