



New Insights into Arterial Stiffness

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Message from the Guest Editor

Arterial stiffness is a concept that has been developed in the field of epidemiological studies. It is well known that people with increased arterial stiffness have a higher incidence of future cardiovascular disease. The cardio-ankle vascular index (CAVI) was developed as an index of arterial stiffness from the origin of the aorta to the ankle. CAVI is a numerical index of arterial stiffness derived from the stiffness parameter beta theory and the application of the Bramwell–Hill equation for pulse wave velocity (PWV). The main advantage of CAVI is its independency from blood pressure at the time of measurement. By taking advantage of this feature, CAVI makes it possible to study vascular function, which has been difficult with the previously utilized PWV. CAVI, measured at stability, reflects arterial structural stiffness well. On the other hand, CAVI that fluctuates briefly with intervention or invasion is recognized as representing functional arterial stiffness. Changes in arterial stiffness due to various therapeutic interventions and risk exposures is a new expanding research field.





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