



# Ischemic Heart Disease

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Giovanni Concistrè  
Editor

# Ischemic Heart Disease

## From Diagnosis to Treatment

 Springer

*Editor*

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*“To my family”*

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## Foreword



Cardiovascular disease remains the leading cause of death worldwide. According to the World Heart Federation, cardiovascular disease is responsible for 17.1 million deaths globally each year. Counterintuitively, 82% of these deaths actually occur in the developing world. Such numbers are often difficult to comprehend. The gravity of the situation is enhanced when portrayed as the following: Heart disease kills one person every 34 s in the USA alone, and 35 people under the age of 65 die prematurely in the UK every day due to cardiovascular disease (12,500 deaths per annum). Although still the leading killer, the incidence of cardiovascular disease has declined in recent years for several reasons: a better understanding of its pathology, implementation and enhancement of lipid-lowering therapy, new drug regimens including low-molecular-weight heparin and antiplatelet drugs such as glycoprotein IIb/IIIa receptor inhibitors, and acute surgical intervention.

The disease burden has a great financial impact on global healthcare systems and major economic consequences for world economies. Hospital care for patients with cardiovascular disease accounts for approximately 70% of the cost with 20% spent on pharmacological agents. However, the total cost should also include non-healthcare costs such as production losses in the workforce and informal care of people with the disease.

This text aims to elevate the current understanding and treatment of coronary artery disease at every level, and I particularly appreciate the multidisciplinary and international approach of the editors and authors. The authors are cardiologists, radiologists, pathologists, and cardiac surgeons who work in Europe, America, Asia, and Australia. The book is very comprehensive, covering all aspects of ischemic heart disease including anatomy, physiology, preoperative assessment by various techniques, and risk analysis that is especially relevant to an ever-increasing elderly population. The book then focuses on varied surgical procedures and newly emerging technologies, and its particular focus on modern innovations provides a very innovative slant.

While the book is primarily aimed at cardiology fellows in training, it will also appeal to a far wider audience including surgeons, cardiologists, imagers, interventionalists, as well as other clinicians and students involved in the diagnosis and treatment of ischemic heart disease. I believe that this book will help clarify daily questions regarding the clinical and surgical practice in ischemic heart disease, as well as induce inspiration and new insights into this field. For all these efforts and initiatives, the editors and authors deserve congratulations.

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