

TURKISH SOCIETY OF CARDIOLOGY ARCHIVES

From the Editor

Dear colleagues,

Hypercholesterolemia is one of the most important risk factors of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease. The "heart-cholesterol-diet" hypothesis suggested in 1940s is today a scientific fact proven with abundant data until date as the "unfavorable effect of elevated cholesterol levels on CV events". Contrary to popular belief, hypercholesterolemia is not a simple metabolism disorder but a critical component of atherosclerosis. In fact, it is the risk factor with the most abundant scientific evidence which has the best known association with atherosclerosis. As a matter of fact, this is why lipids have become one of the main areas in cardiology. Currently, it is not possible to consider lipids, atherosclerosis and cardiovascular prevention as separate subjects and lipid-lowering treatment is also the leading factor of the success against atherosclerosis in clinical cardiology.

Based on these scientific facts, "Lipids and their CV effects" has been determined as the main area of our 2014-2016 actions as the Lipid Working Group. While preparing this special issue developed in this context, we aimed to remind our colleagues the importance of elevated cholesterol levels and to recommend solutions and approaches which may contribute to the gray areas, challenges and controversial questions in clinical practice. The questions included in this issue are based on the questions on lipids and atherosclerosis we encountered during the lipid update meetings with cardiologists in several cities through the previous term. We aimed to provide answers to the questions we frequently encounter in daily practice by reflecting the experiences and opinions of experts together with the scientific data in line with the current guidelines. The fact that ESC 2016 Guidelines on Dyslipidemia has been published 1.5 months ago also helped us to reflect the most recent recommendations.

Why 104 questions? This will be asked quite often. In fact, we had started with the idea of "50 questions & 50 expert answers". However, when we took into consideration the questions we encountered during the meetings, even 100 questions turned out to be not enough. You will note even more questions on the web. Furthermore, the web material will allow us to update the data with certain intervals.

We hope that this collaborative efforts have resulted in a robust, practical and directive work meeting the expectations. I would like to endlessly thank Prof. Dr. Lale Tokgözoğlu, the Next Chairperson of European Atherosclerosis Society for leading the way in this project with their experiences, all board members of Turkish Society of Cardiology (TKD) for supporting us and creating a scientific environment with their contributions, and all of the esteemed authors for their intensive efforts and support.

In the hope that our efforts will be helpful...

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