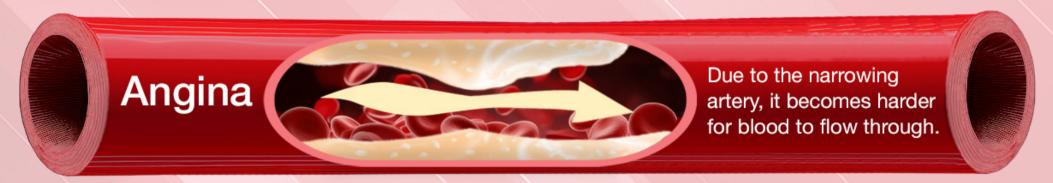
## A Guide to Coronary Artery Disease



A healthy coronary artery is a blood vessel that carries oxygen-rich blood to the heart without any blockages. This clear pathway ensures the heart receives the essential oxygen and nutrients it needs to function properly.



The primary cause of Coronary Artery Disease is atherosclerosis, which occurs when plaque, composed of fatty substances, cholesterol, and other cellular materials, builds up on the inner walls of the coronary arteries.



Angina is a type of chest pain or discomfort that happens when blood flow to the heart is reduced. It is a common symptom of coronary artery disease. Angina is not a disease itself; rather, it occurs when the heart does not receive enough oxygen-rich blood.



A heart attack, or myocardial infarction, occurs when blood flow to the heart muscle is blocked, leading to a lack of oxygen and potential tissue damage. This often results from coronary artery disease, where plaque build up narrows the arteries. If the plaque ruptures, a blood clot can form, completely obstructing the artery and preventing blood from reaching the heart.



A healthy artery.



Plaque build up.



Angina is caused by a narrowing of the coronary artery.



Heart attack caused by a blockage in the artery.









