



What Is a Heart Attack?

Every 34 seconds, someone dies from heart and blood vessel diseases, America's No. 1 killer. Since most of those deaths are from coronary heart disease — over 375,000 each year — it's important to learn all you can about heart attack.

For example, you should know the warning signs of heart attack so you can get help right away, either for yourself or someone close to you.

Some heart attacks are sudden and intense. But most start slowly, with mild pain or discomfort. Here are some of the signs that can mean a heart attack is happening:

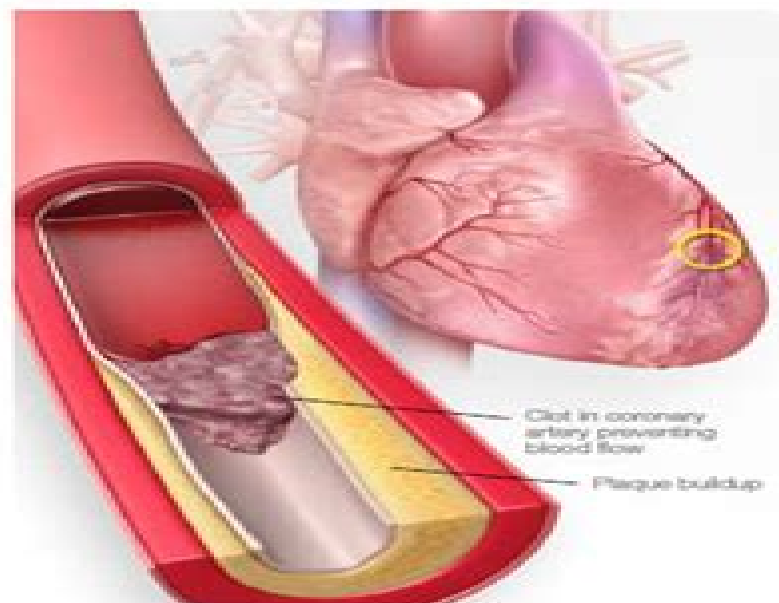
- Uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain in the center of your chest. It lasts more than a few minutes, or goes away and comes back.
- Pain or discomfort in one or both arms, your back, neck, jaw or stomach.
- Shortness of breath with or without chest discomfort.
- Other signs such as breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

If you or someone you're with has chest discomfort, especially with one or more of the other signs, **immediately call 9-1-1** or the emergency medical services (EMS) in your area (fire department or ambulance). Get to a hospital right away.

What causes a heart attack?

A heart attack occurs when the blood flow to a part of the heart is blocked (often by a blood clot). This happens because coronary arteries that supply the heart with blood slowly become thicker and harder from a buildup of fat, cholesterol and other substances, called plaque.

If the plaque breaks open and a blood clot forms that



blocks the blood flow, a heart attack occurs. Then the heart muscle supplied by that artery begins to die. Damage increases the longer an artery stays blocked. Once that muscle dies, the result is permanent heart damage.

How can I recover?

Depending on the extent of your heart attack, you may only be in the hospital a few days. But your recovery is just beginning.

- Start making changes in your life now to reduce your risk of having another heart attack. Eat heart-healthy meals, be more physically active, reach and maintain a healthy weight, and don't smoke.
- Talk with your doctor and nurses about how you can live as normal a life as possible. Ask how soon you can go back to work, drive a car, have sex, and what to do if you have chest discomfort. They can answer your questions about other matters, too.

(continued)

Answers By Heart Fact Sheets

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Educational Materials Catalog National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, 1994 **The Medical Library Association**
Guide to Finding Out About Heart Disease Jeanette de Richmond, Terry Hoffman, 2013-10-10 Heart disease affects millions of people every year The MLA Guide to Finding Out About Heart Disease organizes and offers evaluated print and online resources to help readers develop a collection or research specific medical options incorporating important data and key concepts about risk factors and symptoms of heart disease **Handbook of Home Health Standards, Revised Reprint** Tina M. Marrelli, 2011-08-11 Handbook of Home Health Standards Revised Reprint Clinical Guide to Cardiovascular Disease Vincent E. Friedewald, 2017-02-06 **ATSDR [fact Sheets]**, 1995 The fact sheet series presents summaries and answers questions about hazardous substances and their health effects *Hazardous Substances Fact Sheets*, 1993 *Info Memo*, 1991 *Catalog of Information & Education Materials*, 1976 Pathophysiology, Physical Assessment, and Pharmacology Janie T. Best, Grace Buttriss, Annette Hines, 2021-11-04 Integrate the 3Ps for a real world holistic approach to nursing care This first of its kind text integrates the 3 Ps pathophysiology pharmacology and physical assessment into an integrative whole that reflects the real world of how students learn and nurses practice This groundbreaking approach promotes a deeper understanding of these three essential and often challenging content areas paralleling the importance of integration in the planning delivery and evaluation of nursing care Its lifespan approach features six major population based sections cover the key conditions and disorders that nurses are likely to encounter in practice reviewing the important pathophysiology pharmacology and physical exam and assessment information relative to each disorder Each section concludes with a case study that presents a new disorder relative to the population in that section reinforcing the authors application focused approach and developing must have critical thinking skills **U.S. Air Force Fact Sheet** United States. Dept. of the Air Force. Internal Information Division, 1962 **Hypertension Management for the Primary Care Clinician** Alan H. Mutnick, 2004 The book combines comprehensive coverage of various aspects of hypertension with guidance in conveying important concepts knowledge and advice to patients The result is a highly useful tool for achieving clinically successful cost effective pharmaceutical care for hypertensive patients and for reducing the morbidity and mortality associated with this devastating disease state Book jacket *Orientation Fact Sheets, No. 1 to No. 30 (inclusive)* United States. Army Service Forces. Information and Education Division, 1944 **Concept-Based Clinical Nursing Skills - E-Book** Loren Nell Melton Stein, Connie J. Hollen, 2023-02-27 Selected for Doody's Core Titles 2024 in Fundamentals Concept Based Clinical Nursing Skills Fundamental to Advanced Competencies 2nd Edition covers more than 250 nursing skills in an innovative concept based format Unlike any other text Stein and Hollen incorporate an overarching framework of seven critical concepts accuracy person centered care infection control safety communication evaluation and health maintenance to drive home the importance of these key themes in performing nursing skills and developing nursing

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Managing Heart Failure in Primary Care: A Case Study Approach K. Melissa Smith Hayes, Nicole R. Dellise, 2023-03-29 This guide provides a clear and concise overview of heart failure for primary care clinicians Written by two nurse practitioners for nurses nurse practitioners physician assistants medical students and pharmacists it is uniquely designed to bridge the gap between cardiology and primary care It delivers the most current recommendations outlined by the American Heart Association and the Heart Failure Society of America guidelines for the management and treatment of heart failure This book includes a comprehensive overview of heart failure with reduced ejection fraction and heart failure with preserved ejection fraction Special chapters are dedicated to physical exam interpretation and application of diagnostic testing and the management of chronic illness in the setting of acute and chronic heart failure Additionally the book provides clinicians with guidance on common medications to avoid patient education successful transitions of care and conversations regarding goals of care Each chapter includes an overview and learning objectives The Practice Pearls and case studies found throughout the text highlight key takeaway points

Traffic Safety Materials Catalog ,2003 **Human Genetics** ,1980 **Resources in Education** ,1998

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