

1: [Forensic Sci Int.](#) 1995 Oct 30;75(2-3):121-31. [Links](#)

## **Atherosclerosis in alcoholics.**

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A cohort of alcoholics who underwent a medico-legal autopsy during a 5-year period was compared with non-alcoholic controls who did not differ from the alcoholics in selection criteria. The degree of atherosclerosis in the coronary arteries and the aorta was examined. Alcoholic men and old women had a significantly lower degree of atherosclerosis in the coronary arteries, while the opposite was found in young women. In the aorta there was no significant difference in the degree of atherosclerosis between alcoholics and controls in men. Alcoholic women generally had a lower degree of atherosclerosis in the aorta. The so-called U-shaped curve for the relationship between the daily alcohol intake and atherosclerosis is described together with some of the investigations on which it is based. There is much positive evidence for the U-shaped curve, although a causal association has not been proven as yet. The present results indicate a complex relationship, in which different confounding factors are likely to play a role.

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