



Requiem for the ‘vulnerable plaque’

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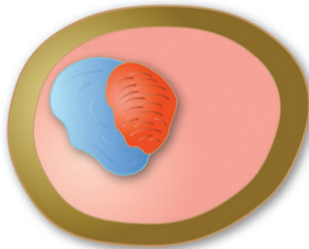
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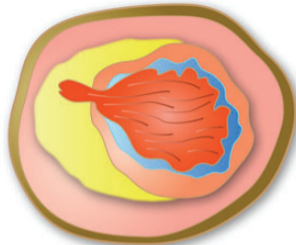
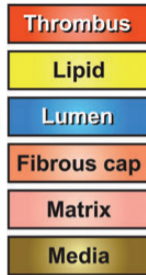
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Plaque erosion

Lipid poor
Proteoglycan and glycosaminoglycan rich
Non-fibrillar collagen breakdown
Few inflammatory cells
Endothelial cell apoptosis
Secondary neutrophil involvement
Female predominance
High triglycerides



Plaque rupture

Lipid rich
Collagen poor, thin fibrous cap
Interstitial collagen breakdown
Abundant inflammation
Smooth muscle cell apoptosis
Macrophage predominance
Male predominance
High LDL