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SEX BIAS SEEN IN TREATING CHOLESTEROL

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Most men with heart disease due to high cholesterol get proper medication. Most women do not, says a study conducted by the University of Maryland Medical Center, Baltimore.

"The sex bias observed was quite striking," says Dr. Michael Miller, lead researcher in the three-year study of 825 men and women heart disease patients at 16 North American academic medical centers. Even though coronary artery disease was similarly severe in all participants, "the target LDL (low-density lipoprotein, the gunk that clogs arteries) was obtained in approximately 1 out of 10 women, compared with nearly 1 out of 3 men" at the start of the study, Miller says. When the study ended in 1997, 54 percent of men and only 35 percent of women received medication.