

Figure. Screening for carotid artery stenosis: clinical summary of U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation

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Screening for Carotid Artery Stenosis

Population	Adult General Population*
Recommendation	<p>Do not screen with ultrasonography or other screening tests</p> <p>Grade: D</p>
Risk assessment	<p>The major risk factors for carotid artery stenosis include older age, male sex, hypertension, smoking, hypercholesterolemia, and heart disease. However, accurate, reliable risk assessment tools are not available.</p>
Balance of benefits and harms	<p>Harms outweigh benefits.</p> <p>In the general population, screening with carotid duplex ultrasonography would result in many false-positive results.</p> <p>This would lead either to surgeries that are not indicated or to confirmatory angiography. As the result of these procedures, some people would have serious harms (death, stroke, and myocardial infarction) that outweigh the potential benefit that surgical treatment may have in preventing stroke.</p>
Other relevant recommendations from the USPSTF	<p>Adults should be screened for hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and smoking. Clinicians should discuss aspirin chemoprevention with patients at increased risk for cardiovascular disease. These recommendations and related evidence are available at www.preventiveservices.ahrq.gov.</p>

For a summary of the evidence systematically reviewed in making these recommendations, the full recommendation statement, and supporting documents, please go to www.preventiveservices.ahrq.gov. USPSTF = U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. *This recommendation applies to adults without neurologic symptoms and without a history of transient ischemic attacks or stroke. If otherwise eligible, an individual who has a carotid-area transient ischemic attack should be evaluated promptly for consideration of carotid endarterectomy.