



Requiem for the ‘vulnerable plaque’

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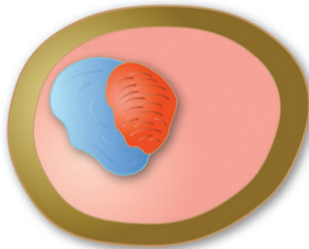
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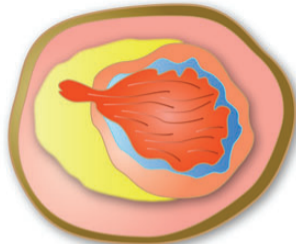
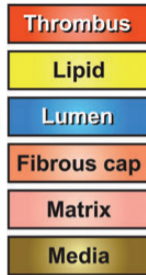
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Plaque erosion

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