

Do Cholesterol Numbers Really Assess Cardiovascular Risk?

Lipoprotein Particle Numbers Tell the Story

Overview of lipoprotein particles and cholesterol

Cholesterol testing has historically been used as the standard indicator for cardiovascular disease classified as HDL (good) or LDL (bad). However, it is actually the lipoprotein particles that carry the cholesterol throughout the body, not necessarily the cholesterol within them, that are responsible for key steps in plaque production and the resulting development of cardiovascular disease.

Approximately 50 percent of people suffering from heart attacks have shown “normal” cholesterol numbers (NIH – National Heart Blood and Lung Institute).

LPP™ Testing is essential to identifying at-risk patients

Up to 50 percent of those who have suffered heart attacks had “normal” cholesterol numbers. How can the large discrepancy between accurate diagnosis and standard cholesterol testing be prevented? By testing the LDL (low density lipoprotein) particle numbers using the Lipoprotein Particle Profile™ (LPP™) from SpectraCell Laboratories.

Now there is an advanced cholesterol testing technology which accurately measures both the density and number of lipoprotein particles. This test is the Lipoprotein Particle Profile™, or LPP™, from SpectraCell Laboratories.

Measuring the lipoprotein subgroups is the only way to evaluate new risk factors, which is crucial for an accurate assessment of cardiovascular risk – according to the National Cholesterol Education Program (NCEP).

NCEP new Risk Factors:

- **Small, dense LDL:**
 - these atherogenic particles are easily oxidized and penetrate the arterial endothelium to form plaque
- **Lp(a):**
 - this small, dense LDL is involved in thrombosis (Clotting) – Risk of Stroke
- **RPL (Remnant Lipoprotein):** is very atherogenic, has a similar composition and density of plaque, is believed to be a building block of plaque and does not need to be oxidized like other LDL particle
- **HDL2b:**
 - positively correlates with heart health because it is an indicator of how well excess lipids are removed