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Sommario/riassunto	Coronary artery disease is the most common cause of morbidity in the developed and developing world. In the acute situation, in contrast to the stable presentation, there is a need for urgency with clear benefits from intervention. However it is imperative that risks are assessed and addressed as part of the long term strategy. Preventing acute coronary syndromes is more important than dealing with them. This concise, practical pocketbook opens with the background and mechanisms leading to the acute event and how an understanding of the pathophysiology can direct the overall management and not