Record Nr. Autore	UNISA996339117403316 Graham Ian M
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Sommario/riassunto	The multi-factorial nature of cardiovascular disease has important implications for the planning of effective treatment strategies. Lifestyle factors such as diet, smoking history and exercise combine with endogenous predictors such as ethnicity and family history to give every individual a unique risk profile. To achieve a better outcome for the patient, we first need to understand how these factors work, singly and in combination, to cause or accelerate progression of disease. With this knowledge we can then develop more effective strategies for management that incorporate changes in lifesty