Overview: Aortic atherosclerosis (I70.0) may be recommended for consideration when:

- Radiology defines the atherosclerotic burden as moderate or severe.
- Radiology defines it as mild (or does not define the severity) and the patient has other atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, such as:
  - carotid artery atherosclerosis
  - peripheral arterial disease
  - history of atherosclerotic TIA/stroke
  - coronary artery disease (including severe coronary artery calcifications)
  - previous aortic aneurysm repair.

Note: In these situations, aortic atherosclerosis can be thought of as a marker of predisposition for diffuse atherosclerotic disease and its complications.

Pearl: Radiology may use synonyms for atherosclerosis, such as plaque or calcification.

Resources:
1. Up to Date, Thromboembolism from aortic plaque;
2. Up to Date, Atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease risk assessment for primary prevention in adults: our approach;
3. Up to Date, Prevention of cardiovascular disease events in those with established disease (secondary prevention) or at very high risk;
4. 2022 ACC/AHA Guideline for the Diagnosis and Management of Aortic Disease

Updated
2/14/2024