

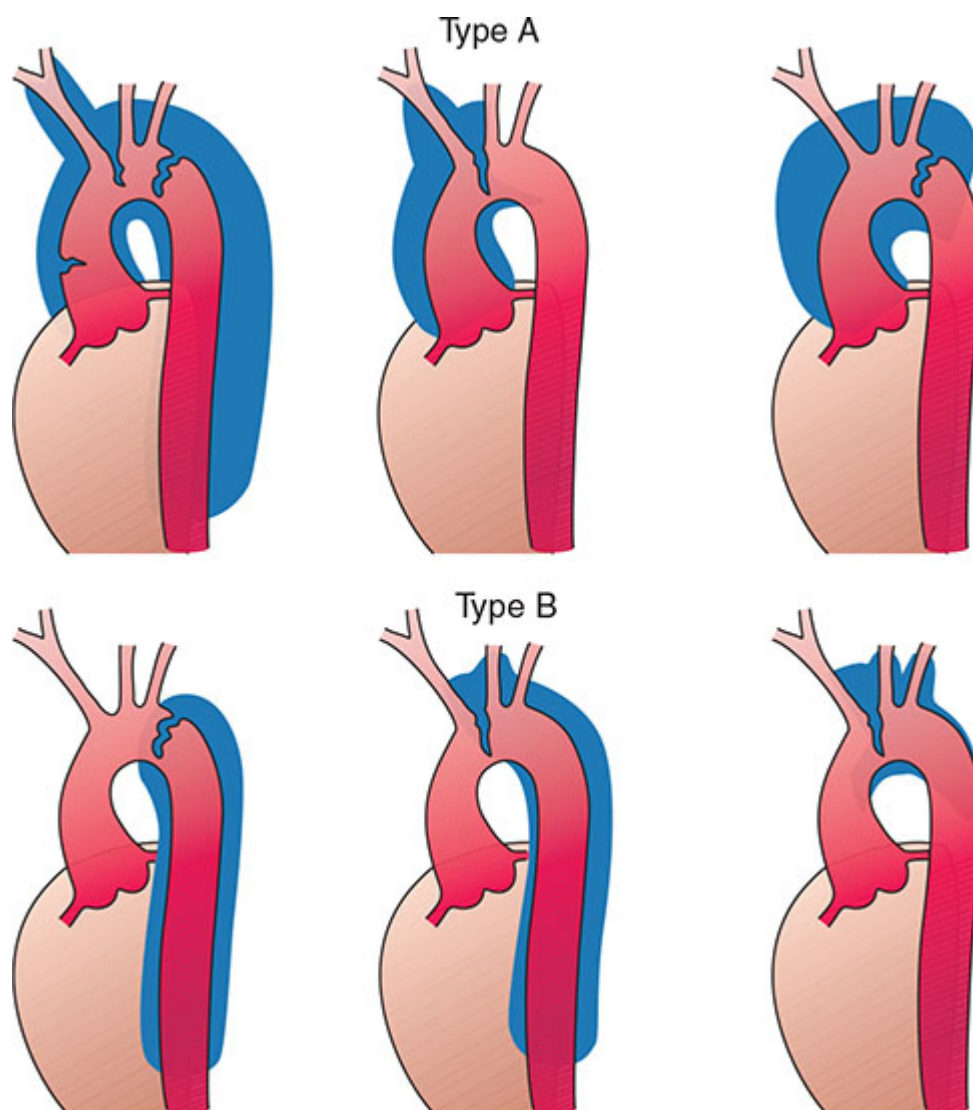


FIGURE 280-4 Classification of aortic dissections. Stanford classification: Type A dissections (*top*) involve the ascending aorta independent of site of tear and distal extension; type B dissections (*bottom*) involve transverse and/or descending aorta without involvement of the ascending aorta. DeBakey classification: Type I dissection involves ascending to descending aorta (*top left*); type II dissection is limited to ascending or transverse aorta, without descending aorta (*top center + top right*); type III dissection involves descending aorta only (*bottom left*). (Reproduced with permission from DC Miller, in RM Doroghazi, EE Slater [eds]: *Aortic Dissection*. New York, McGraw-Hill, 1983.)

The factors that predispose to aortic dissection include those associated with medial degeneration and others that increase aortic wall stress ([Table 280-1](#)). Systemic hypertension is a coexisting condition in 70% of patients. Aortic dissection is the major cause of