LONDON — Short people have a 50% higher risk of heart problems than tall people, according to a study published on Thursday.

Scientists theorized that short people might have a thicker layer of fat, which could clog their arteries. The study, published in the journal Circulation, examined the records of 3,000 people who had undergone angiography, a procedure that shows the inside of blood vessels.

“The shorter the person, the thicker their arterial walls,” said Dr. Lynda Doyle, lead author of the study. “This suggests that short people are more likely to develop heart disease.”

The study found that people who were shorter than 5 feet 3 inches were more likely to have blockages in their arteries than those who were taller. The risk was higher for women than for men.

“This is a significant finding,” said Dr. Lynda Doyle. “It means that short people should be more aware of their heart health and take steps to reduce their risk.”

The study was funded by the British Heart Foundation and the European Heart Network. It is the first to look at the relationship between height and heart disease.

“I am surprised by the results,” said Dr. Lynda Doyle. “I thought that height was just a matter of genetics, but it seems that there are other factors at play.”

The study was published in the journal Circulation. It is available online at http://circ.ahajournals.org.

Related articles:
- “Short people are at higher risk of heart problems” in the Daily News, June 10, 2010,
- “Short people have a 50% higher risk of heart problems” in the New York Times, June 10, 2010

More information:
- British Heart Foundation: http://www.bhf.org.uk
- European Heart Network: http://www.ehnet.org

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The MTA will hold another round of public hearings on July 10 to take input from the public on its proposal to cut service and reduce the number of token booths.

“The MTA needs to hear from the public on this important issue,” said Dr. Lynda Doyle, a member of the hearing panel. “It’s important that we get as many people as possible to participate.”

The MTA is planning to close 10 branches and lay off 7,000 workers. The hearing panel is made up of representatives from the MTA, the city, and various groups.

“I am concerned about the impact this will have on our customers,” said Dr. Lynda Doyle. “We need to do everything we can to ensure that the service we provide is as good as possible.”

The hearing will take place on July 10 at 2 p.m. at the MTA headquarters in Manhattan. It is open to the public and will be broadcast on the MTA’s website.

“We want to hear from as many people as possible,” said Dr. Lynda Doyle. “If you have any concerns about the proposed changes, please come and speak with us.”

The MTA is facing a $37 billion budget deficit this year. The agency is considering a range of options to cut costs, including layoffs and service reductions.

“We need to make tough decisions,” said Dr. Lynda Doyle. “But we will do everything we can to protect our customers.”

To participate in the hearing, please call 1-800-JENNIFER or email jennifer@mta.gov.

More information:
- MTA website: http://www.mta.gov
- MTA hearing panel: http://www.mta.gov/hearingpanel