

# Coronary CT in Chest Pain A Paradigm Shift Z Luebbering DO

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# Disclosures

# Objectives

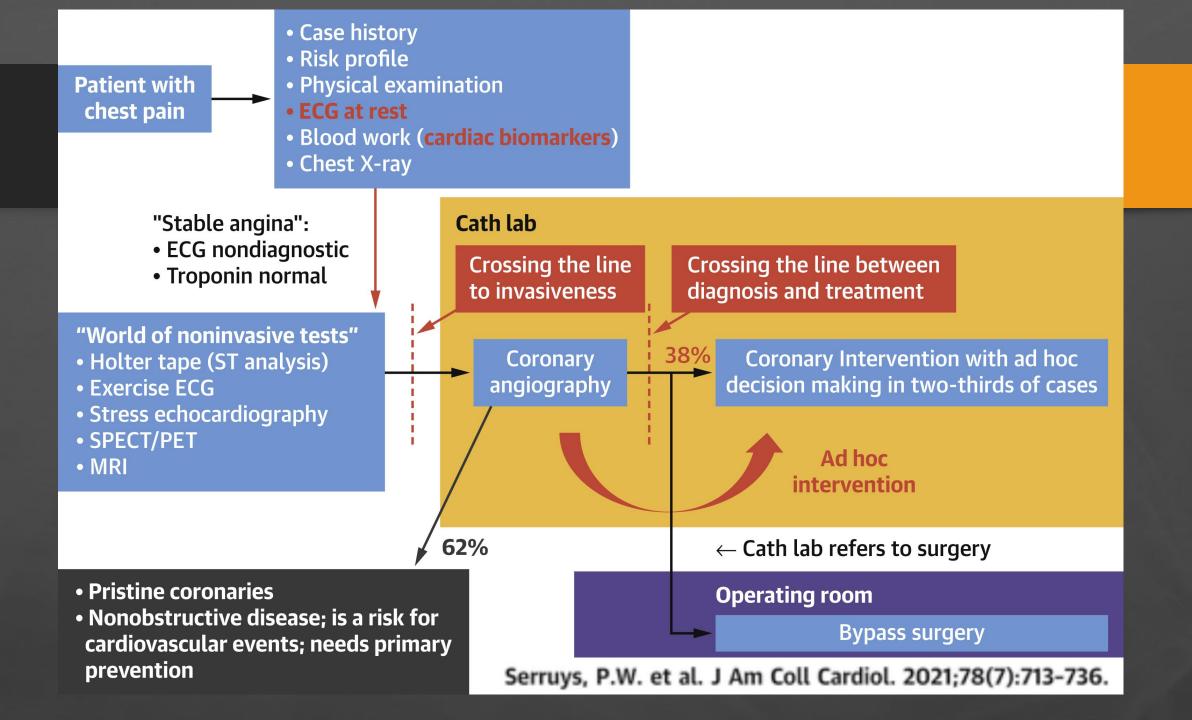
Briefly assess how Cardiac CT and calcium scoring are acquired and technological improvements in CCTA technology to make this possible

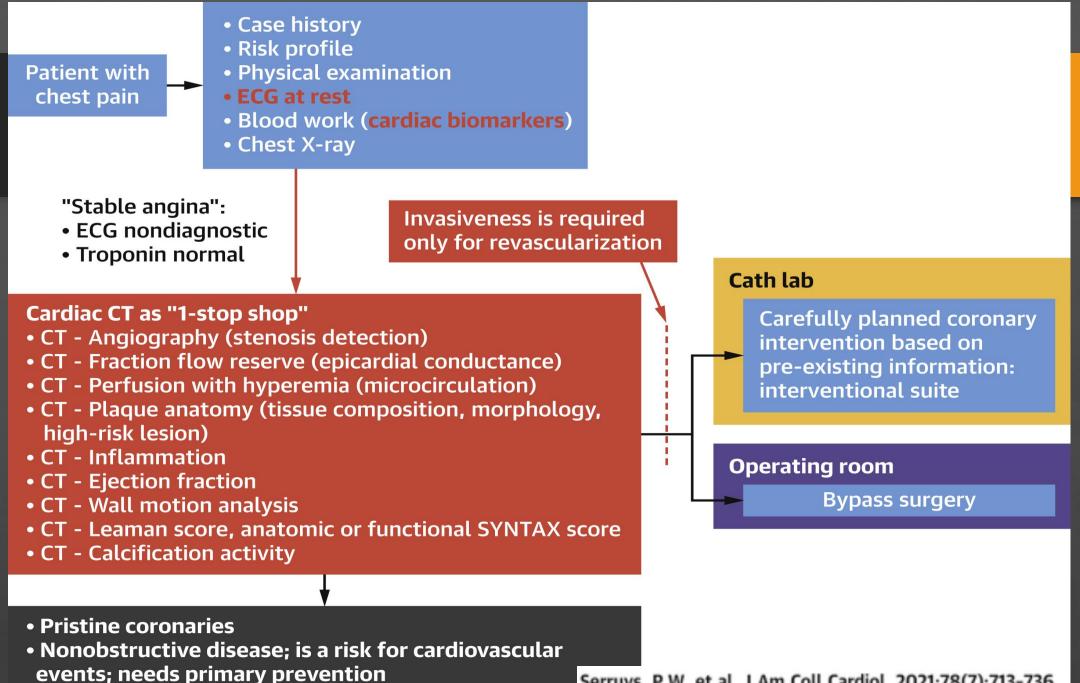
Explain differences of calcium scoring from CCTA and its clinical utility in cardiovascular risk stratification

Discuss landmark trials and evidence for clinical use of CCTA for assessment of cardiovascular risk, along with diagnosis of coronary artery disease

Review guidelines from the ACC for chest pain and the incorporation of CCTA

Discuss future directions and uses of Cardiac CT





Serruys, P.W. et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2021;78(7):713-736.

## Catching Up

# European countries have led in CORONARY CT (CCTA) use.

First-line modality in evaluation of chest pain

- Guidelines from the United Kingdom in 2016
- European Society of Cardiology in 2019.

# CP guidelines (AHA, ACC, ASE, CHEST, SAEM, SCCT, SCMR, Nov 2021)

		1
1	А	

. For intermediate-high risk patients with stable chest pain and no known CAD,

CCTA is effective for diagnosis of CAD, for risk stratification, and for guiding treatment decisions.



1. For intermediate-risk patients with acute chest pain and no known CAD eligible for diagnostic testing after a negative or inconclusive evaluation for ACS, CCTA is useful for exclusion of atherosclerotic plaque and obstructive CAD (1-11).

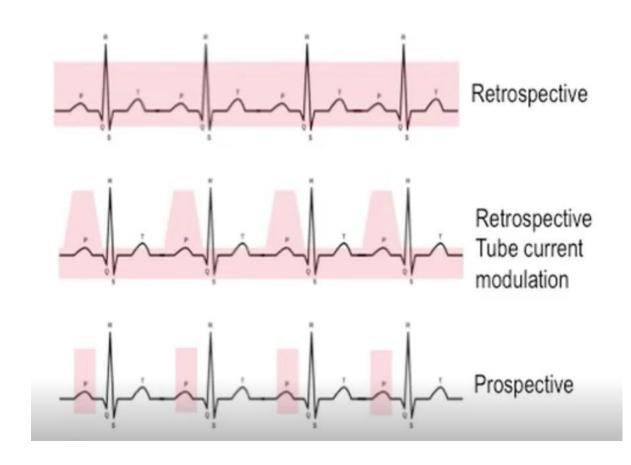
## Tech that makes Cardiac CT possible

Coronary arteries are mobile so gating is required to overcome motion

imaging during the phases where they are least mobile is paramount to image quality

Protocols modulating X-ray tube during specific phases greatly reduce radiation

Heart rate control with beta blockers is essential



## Technological Advancements

- Increased gantry spin times
- Increased number of detector rows (256 and 320 slice)
- Dual source scanning



#### https://www.siemens-healthineers.com/



## Differences between Coronary CT and Coronary Calcium Scores

https://www.ucsfhealth.org/medical-tests/heart-ct-scan

#### Table 1:

The Calculation of an Agatston Calcium Score

#### **Agatston Calcium Score**

Density in Hounsfield units (HU):

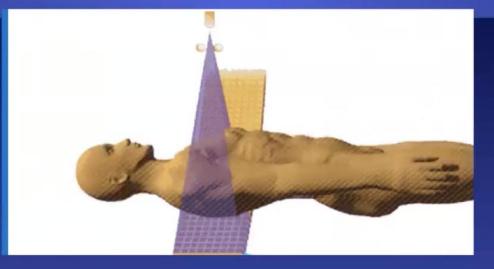
- 1: 130–199 HU
- 2: 200-299 HU
- 3: 300-399 HU
- 4: >400 HU

This weighted score is then multiplied by the area  $mm^2$ .

# Calcium Scoring

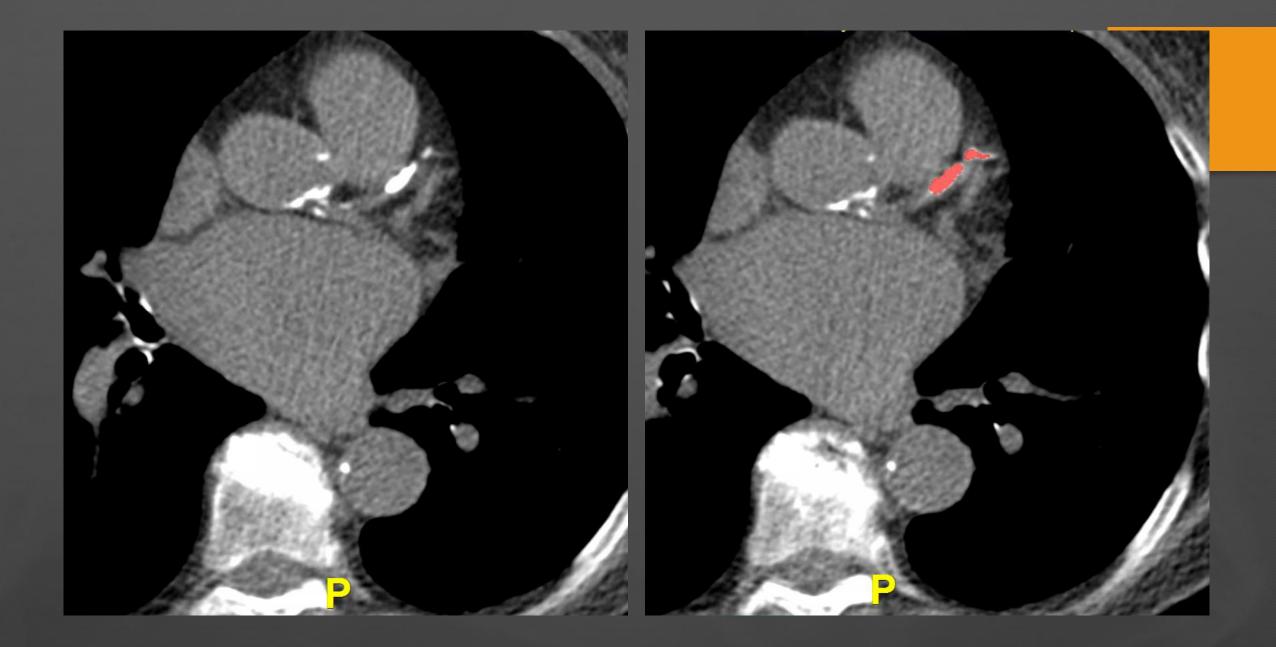
- Initially developed in 1990 to quantify the degree of calcium within the coronary
- Agatston score relies on calcium density and total area of calcification
- Gated, non contrast scan
- Relatively low radiation (1mSv NIH.gov)

## Calcium Score Acquisition





Slice thickness: 3mm Prospectively triggered scan Target exposure depends on heart rate (40-75%) Tube potential 120 kV, tube current variable No contrast



# Common Indications

- Age: >40 y

   +

   Risk: Intermediate

   +
- Symptoms: Asymptomatic population

#### Common Treatment Threshold

- CAC = 0: downgrade risk, withhold statin
- CAC >100: Initiate / consider statin

#### **Specialty Guidelines**



CAC = 0: No statin, repeat 3-7 years.
CAC >100: High intensity statin + ASA 81 mg.



CAC = 0: No statin.
CAC >100: High intensity statin + ASA 81 mg.

### Golub IS, et al. J Am Coll Cardiol Img. 2023;16(1):98-117.

Patient's 10-year atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) risk estimate:	<5%	5-7.5%	>7.5-20%	>20%
Consulting ASCVD risk estimate alone	Statin not	Consider	Recommend	Recommend
	recommended	for statin	statin	statin
Consulting ASCVD risk estimate + CAC				
If CAC score =0	Statin not	Statin not	Statin not	Recommend
	recommended	recommended	recommended	statin
If CAC score >0	Statin not	Consider	Recommend	Recommend
	recommended	for statin	statin	statin
Does CAC score modify treatment plan?	X CAC not effective for this population	CAC can reclassify risk up or down	CAC can reclassify risk up or down	X CAC not effective for this population

Greenland, P. et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2018;72(4):434-47.

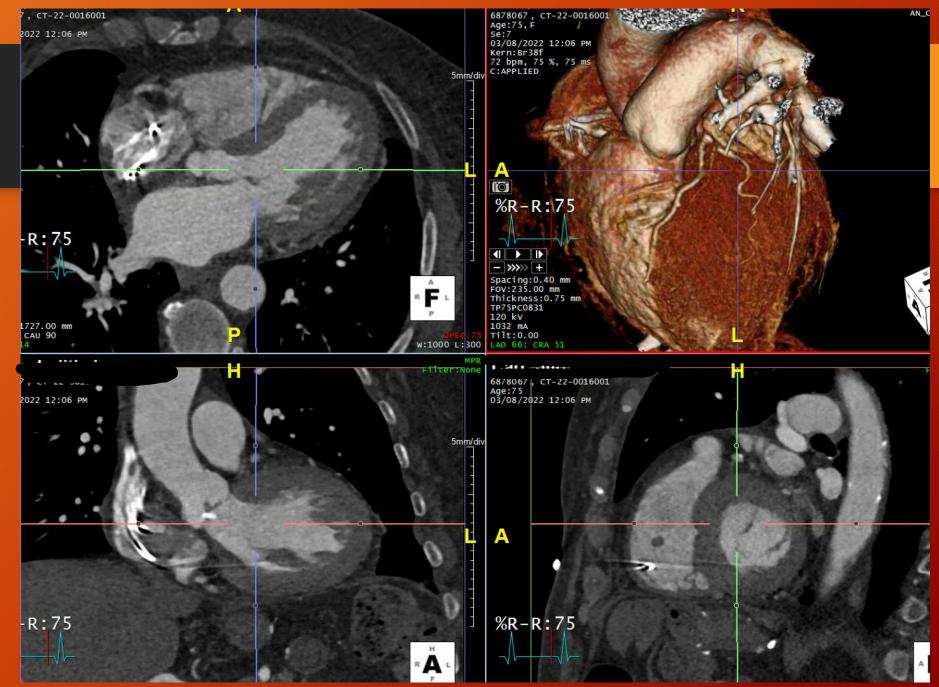
Multiple reconstructions are created each with benefits and shortfalls but combined gives this imaging modality its power.

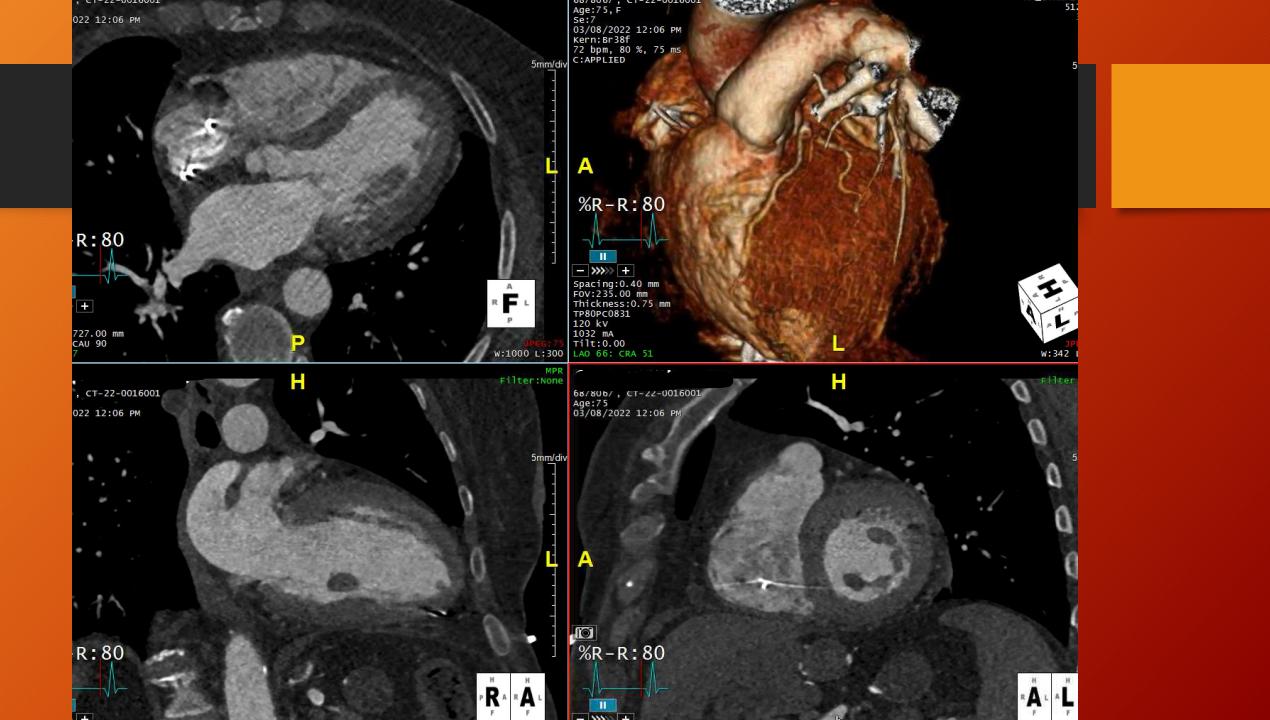
# Interpretation of Coronary CT Angiograms

https://www.ucsfhealth.org/medical-tests/heart-ct-scan

# MPR (*Multi-planar reformations* )

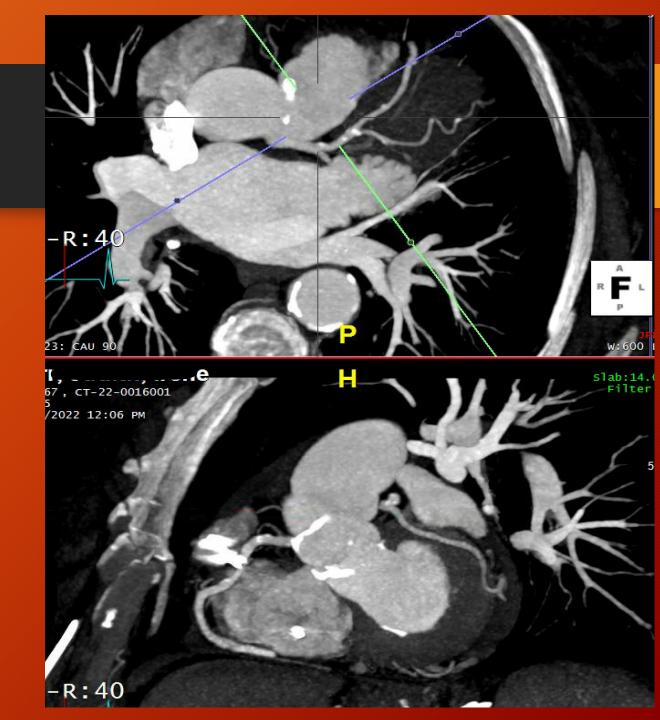
Displays the dataset in any imaging plane of the 3D space





## MIP (Maximal Intensity Projection)

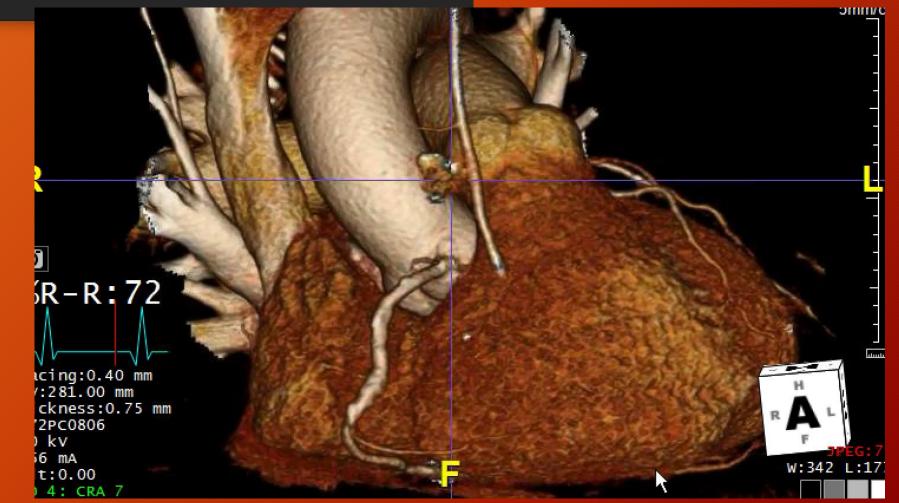
- Displays the voxels of highest attenuation within a volume in the direction of view
- provides an angiography-like image



### 3-Dimensional Volumetric Reconstruction

- Provides a 3D overview of the anatomy
- Assess for coronary anomalies, dominance
- Bypass grafts can be nicely illustrated.

0



## Curved Planar Reformation (CPR)

- MPR reconstructed along a vessel centerline,
- Long and tortuous coronary visualization is possible on a single image



According to several clinical trials, CCTA may predict obstructive CAD better than traditional functional testing.

# Utility of CT

# PROMISE trial

10,003 patients with CP randomized to CTA vs functional testing

### The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ESTABLISHED IN 1812

APRIL 2, 2015

VOL. 372 NO. 14

#### Outcomes of Anatomical versus Functional Testing for Coronary Artery Disease

Pamela S. Douglas, M.D., Udo Hoffmann, M.D., M.P.H., Manesh R. Patel, M.D., Daniel B. Mark, M.D., M.P.H., Hussein R. Al-Khalidi, Ph.D., Brendan Cavanaugh, M.D., Jason Cole, M.D., Rowena J. Dolor, M.D.,
Christopher B. Fordyce, M.D., Megan Huang, Ph.D., Muhammad Akram Khan, M.D., Andrzej S. Kosinski, Ph.D., Mitchell W. Krucoff, M.D., Vinay Malhotra, M.D., Michael H. Picard, M.D., James E. Udelson, M.D.,
Eric J. Velazquez, M.D., Eric Yow, M.S., Lawton S. Cooper, M.D., M.P.H., and Kerry L. Lee, Ph.D., for the PROMISE Investigators\*

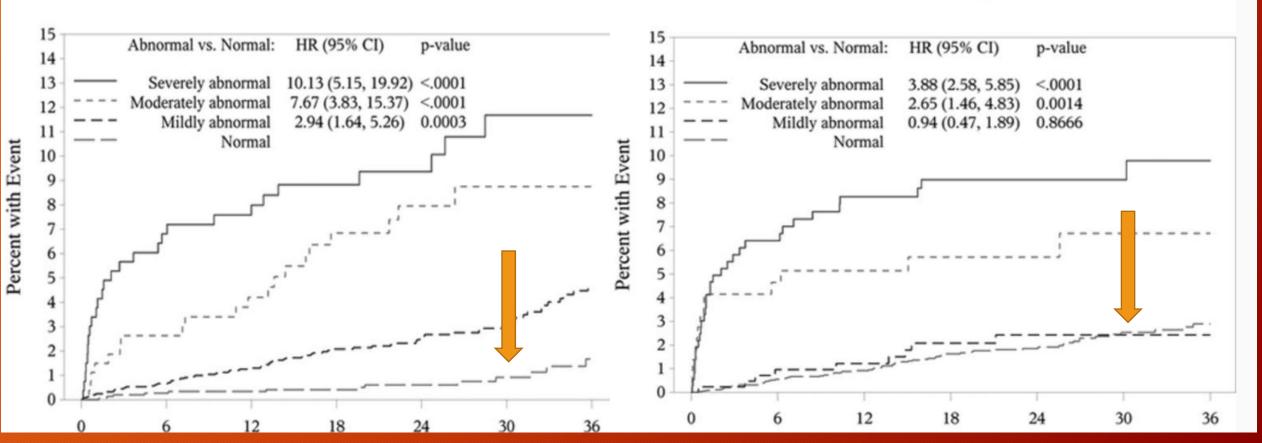
### End Points According to Study Group

CTA Strategy	Functional- Testing Strategy	Adjusted Hazard Ratio	
(N=4996)	(N = 5007)	(95% CI)	P Value
164	151	1.04 (0.83–1.29)	0.75
74	75		
30	40		
61	41		
4	5		
332	353	0.91 (0.78–1.06)	0.22
104	112	0.88 (0.67–1.15)	0.35
162	148	1.04 (0.84–1.31)	0.70
170 (3.4)	213 (4.3)	—	0.02
	(N = 4996) 164 74 30 61 4 332 104 162	Testing Strategy (N=5007)           164         151           74         75           30         40           61         41           4         5           332         353           104         112           162         148	Testing Strategy (N=4996)Testing Strategy (N=5007)Adjusted Hazard Ratio (95% Cl)1641511.04 (0.83–1.29)1641511.04 (0.83–1.29)7475

### Negative Predictive Value

#### Anatomic Testing

#### **Functional Testing**





If CTA performed is "negative", no further testing is necessary

# The PROMISE Trial: The CTA Perspective



CTA was equivalent to stress testing, no difference in event rates at 2-year follow-up



Prevalence of nonobstructive CAD on cath was significantly higher with stress testing 52% vs 27% demonstrating the high negative predictive value

# SCOT-HEART

Patients with chest pain randomized to standard of care plus CTA vs standard care alone

Primary end point: death from coronary heart disease or nonfatal MI



#### The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

#### ORIGINAL ARTICLE

#### Coronary CT Angiography and 5-Year Risk of Myocardial Infarction

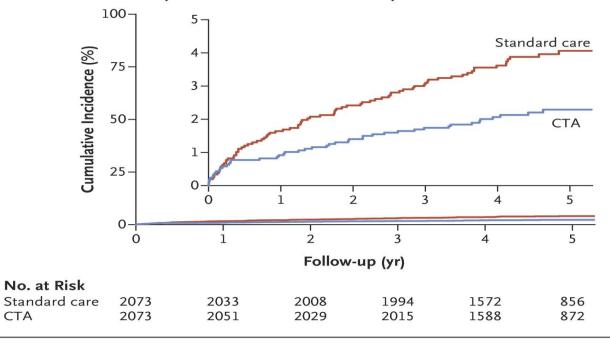
The SCOT-HEART Investigators\*

September 6, 2018 N Engl | Med 2018; 379:924-933 DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa1805971

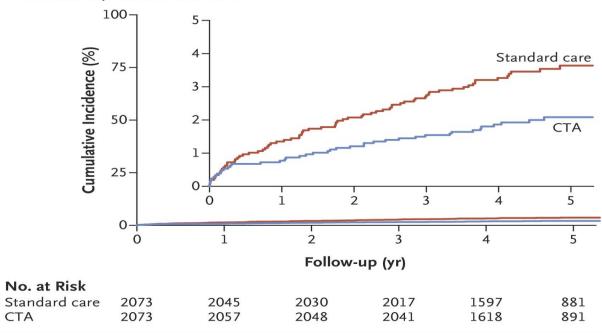
## SCOT-HEART

#### Incidence of Death from Coronary Heart Disease or Nonfatal MI

A Death from Coronary Heart Disease or Nonfatal Myocardial Infarction



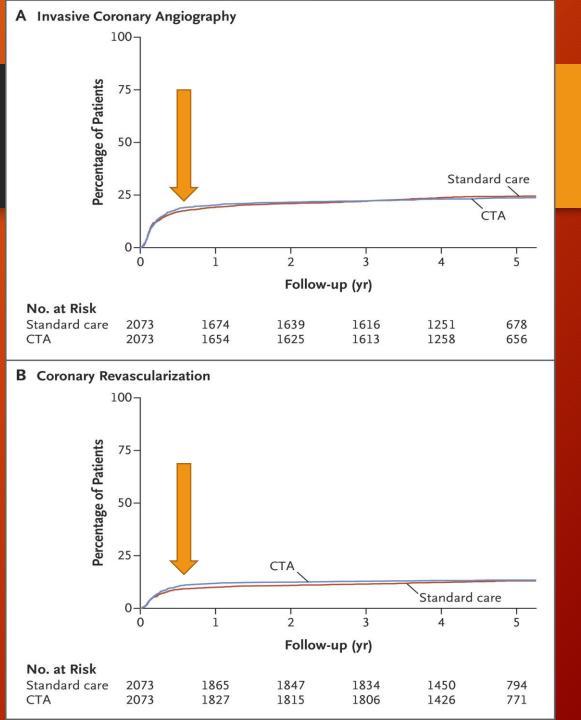
**B** Nonfatal Myocardial Infarction



### SCOT Heart

#### Patient Who Underwent Cath and Revascularization

? Initiation of medical therapy



# SCOT HEART

Primary and Secondary End Points after a Median Follow-up of 4.8 Years

End Point	All Participants (N =4146)	Standard Care (N = 2073)	Standard Care plus CTA (N = 2073)	Hazard Ratio (95% CI)†			
	number of patients (percent)						
Primary end point: death from CHD or non- fatal myocardial infarction‡	129 (3.1)	81 (3.9)	48 (2.3)	0.59 (0.41–0.84)§			
Secondary end points							
Death from CHD, nonfatal myocardial infarction, or nonfatal stroke‡	160 (3.9)	97 (4.7)	63 (3.0)	0.65 (0.47–0.89)			
Nonfatal myocardial infarction	117 (2.8)	73 (3.5)	44 (2.1)	0.60 (0.41–0.87)			
Nonfatal stroke	35 (0.8)	20 (1.0)	15 (0.7)	0.74 (0.38–1.44)			
Death							
From CHD‡	13 (0.3)	9 (0.4)	4 (0.2)	0.46 (0.14–1.48)			
From any cause	86 (2.1)	43 (2.1)	43 (2.1)	1.02 (0.67–1.55)			
Cardiovascular	17 (0.4)	12 (0.6)	5 (0.2)	0.43 (0.15–1.22)			
Noncardiovascular	69 (1.7)	31 (1.5)	38 (1.8)	1.24 (0.77–2.00)			
Procedures							
Invasive coronary angiography	993 (24.0)	502 (24.2)	491 (23.7)	1.00 (0.88–1.13)			
Revascularization	546 (13.2)	267 (12.9)	279 (13.5)	1.07 (0.91–1.27)			
Percutaneous coronary intervention	431 (10.4)	212 (10.2)	219 (10.6)	1.06 (0.88–1.28)			
Coronary-artery bypass grafting	131 (3.2)	62 (3.0)	69 (3.3)	1.12 (0.80–1.58)			

# SCOT HEART

C 1	No. of	<b>67 1</b>	Standard		Coronary Hea	atio for Death from art Disease or Nor	nfatal	P Value for
Subgroup	Patients	СТА	Care		Myocardia	Infarction (95% (	-1)	Interaction
			/total no. (%)					
All patients	4146	48/2073 (2.3)	81/2073 (3.9)			1	0.59 (0.41–0.84)	
Age								0.68
<65 yr	3092	32/1538 (2.1)	51/1554 (3.3)			r L	0.62 (0.40–0.96)	
≥65 yr	1054	16/535 (3.0)	30/519 (5.8)	( <del></del>	-		0.53 (0.29–0.98)	
Sex						1		0.57
Female	1821	11/911 (1.2)	22/910 (2.4)	_	-	1	0.50 (0.24–1.04)	
Male	2325	37/1162 (3.2)	59/1163 (5.1)			1	0.63 (0.42-0.95)	
10-yr cardiovascular risk						1		0.21
<15	2036	15/969 (1.5)	21/1067 (2.0)				0.78 (0.40-1.51)	
≥15	2110	33/1104 (3.0)	60/1006 (6.0)			1	0.50 (0.33-0.77)	
NICE classification						1		0.58
Nonanginal chest pain	1447	8/712 (1.1)	18/735 (2.4)	-	-	1	0.45 (0.19–1.03)	
Possible angina	2323	27/1174 (2.3)	44/1149 (3.8)				0.60 (0.37–0.96)	
Previous CHD						1		0.68
No	3774	35/1887 (1.9)	62/1887 (3.3)		<u> </u>	1	0.57 (0.37-0.86)	
Yes	376	13/187 (7.0)	19/189 (10.1)		-	1	0.65 (0.32-1.32)	
Diabetes								0.40
No	3702	41/1850 (2.2)	64/1852 (3.5)			1	0.63 (0.43-0.94)	
Yes	444	7/223 (3.1)	17/221 (7.7)	-			0.36 (0.15-0.87)	
				0.1	]	1.0 1.6	j.	
				-				
					СТА	Standard Care		
					Better	Better		

Subgroup Analyses for the Primary End Point (Death from Coronary Heart Disease or Nonfatal Myocardial Infarction at 5 Years)



CTA was associated with a significant reduction in cardiac death or MI at 5 years.

# SCOT HEART (5-year outcomes)



CTA was associated with an increase in revascularization in the short-term but no difference at 5 years.



We were able to identify high risk pts earlier.



Low-attenuation plaque burden was the strongest predictor for MI compared with risk scores, calcium score, and stenosis.

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#### CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE: FULL TEXT

### 2021 AHA/ACC/ASE/CHEST/SAEM/ SCCT/SCMR Guideline for the Evaluation and Diagnosis of Chest Pain

A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Joint Committee on Clinical Practice Guidelines

> Chest Pain Guidelines



### 1A Recommendation

Clinical trials report a higher diagnostic sensitivity for CCTA compared with stress testing for detecting obstructive CAD

COR	LOE	RECOMMENDATIONS							
		Index Diagnostic Testing							
	Anatomic Testing								
1	А	1. For intermediate-high risk patients with stable chest pain and no known CAD, CCTA is effective for diagnosis of CAD, for risk stratification, and for guiding treatment decisions (1-12).							

# Exquisite Sensitivity



Journal of the American College of Cardiology Volume 52, Issue 25, 16–23 December 2008, Pages 2135-2144



#### Clinical Research Clinical Trial Diagnostic Accuracy of 64-Slice Computed Tomography Coronary Angiography: A Prospective, Multicenter, Multivendor Study

W. Bob Meijboom MD \*†, Matthijs F.L. Meijs MD §||, Joanne D. Schuijf MD, PhD ¶#, Maarten J. Cramer MD, PhD §, Nico R. Mollet MD, PhD \*†, Carlos A.G. van Mieghem MD \*†, Koen Nieman MD, PhD \*†, Jacob M. van Werkhoven MD ||#, Gabija Pundziute MD ||#, Annick C. Weustink MD \*†, Alexander M. de Vos MD §||, Francesca Pugliese MD \*†, Benno Rensing MD, PhD \*\*, J. Wouter Jukema MD, PhD ¶, Jeroen J. Bax MD, PhD ¶, Mathias Prokop MD, PhD ||, Pieter A. Doevendans MD, PhD §, Myriam G.M. Hunink MD, PhD †‡ ... Pim J. de Feyter MD, PhD \*†  $\stackrel{\circ}{\sim}$  🖾

# 360 symptomatic patients (acute and stable angina)

	Prevalence of						Sensitivity,	Specificity,		
	Disease, %	n	ТР	ΤN	FP	FN	%	%	PPV, %	NPV, %
Patient-based analysis	68	360	244	73	41	2	99 (98–100)	64 (55–73)	86 (82– 90)	97 (94– 100)
Stable angina pectoris	63	233	145	56	31	1	99 (98–100)	64 (53–74)	82 (76– 88)	98 (95– 100)
Non–ST-segment elevation acute coronary syndrome	79	127	99	17	10	1	99 (97–100)	63 (45–81)	91 (85– 96)	94 (84– 100)
Men	76	245	185	38	20	2	99 (97–100)	66 (53–78)	90 (86– 94)	95 (88– 100)
Women	51	115	59	35	21	0	100 (100– 100)	63 (50–75)	74 (64– 83)	100 (100– 100)
Typical angina pectoris	70	151	104	31	15	1	99 (97–100)	67 (54–81)	87 (81– 93)	97 (91– 100)
Atypical angina pectoris	50	82	41	25	16	0	100 (100– 100)	61 (46–76)	72 (60– 84)	100 (100– 100)
Unstable angina pectoris	75	77	57	13	6	1	98 (95–100)	68 (48–89)	90 (83– 98)	93 (79– 100)
Non–ST-segment elevated myocardial infarction	84	50	42	4	4	0	100 (100– 100)	50 (15–85)	91 (83– 99)	100 (100– 100)

# Acute Chest Pain

American

leart

#### Intermediate-Risk Patients With Acute Chest Pain and No Known CAD



	Recommendations for Intermediate-Risk Patients With No Known CAD		
	<b>Referenced studies that support the recommendations are summarized in Online Data Supplements 14 and 15.</b>		
COR	LOE Recommendations		
Anatomic Testing			
1	l	1. For intermediate-risk patients with acute chest pain and no known CAD eligible for diagnostic testing after a negative or inconclusive evaluation for ACS, CCTA is useful for exclusion of	
		atherosclerotic plaque and obstructive CAD.	

#### The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

#### **ORIGINAL ARTICLE**

#### CT Angiography for Safe Discharge of Patients with Possible Acute Coronary Syndromes

Harold I. Litt, M.D., Ph.D., Constantine Gatsonis, Ph.D., Harjit Singh, M.D., Chadwick D. Miller, M.D., Daniel W James M. Leaming, M.D., Laurence J. Gavin, M.D., Charis and Judd E. Hollander, M.D.

 Randomized controlled study comparing CCTA with standard of care

• 2012

Table 3. Outcomes and Use of Resources within 30 Days after Presentation.				
Variable		CCTA-Based Tradition Strategy Card (N = 908) (N = 4		Difference, CCTA-Based Strategy – Traditional Care (95% CI)
		no./total no. (%)		percentage points
Cardiovascular event				
	Death	0	0	0
	Acute myocardial infarction*	10/908 (1)	5/462 (1)	0.02 (–5.6 to 5.7)
	Composite of death or acute myocardial infarction	10/908 (1)	5/462 (1)	0.02 (-5.6 to 5.7)
	Revascularization	24/893 (3)	6/457 (1)	1.4 (-4.3 to 7.0)
Resource used				
	Cardiologist office visit	62/878 (7)	17/451 (4)	3.3 (-2.4 to 9.0)
L	Emergency department revisit	71/885 (8)	34/452 (8)	0.5 (–5.2 to 6.2)
	Hospital admission after index visit	28/889 (3)	11/456 (2)	0.7 (-4.9 to 6.4)

### Outcomes during Index Visit

- Increased discharge rate from the ED
- Decreased length of stay
- Increase rate in diagnosis of CAD

Table 4. Outcomes during the Index Visit.				
Outcome	CCTA-Based Strategy (N=908)	Traditional Care (N = 462)	Difference, CCTA-Based Strategy – Traditional Care (95% CI)	
			percentage points	
Disposition — no. (%)				
Discharge	450 (50)	105 (23)	26.8 (21.4 to 32.2)	
Admission or observation	458 (50)	357 (77)		
Length of stay — hr				
Overall*				
Median	18.0	24.8		
Interquartile range	7.6 to 27.2	19.2 to 30.5		
Patients with negative test*				
Median	12.3	24.7		
Interquartile range	7.0 to 24.3	19.7 to 29.6		
Medications prescribed at discharge — no. (%)				
Aspirin	233 (26)	110 (24)	1.9 (-3.8 to 7.5)	
Thienopyridines	24 (3)	7 (2)	1.1 (-4.5 to 6.7)	
Statins	153 (17)	75 (16)	0.6 (-5.0 to 6.2)	
Cardiovascular events — no. (%)				
Death	0	0	0	
Acute myocardial infarction	9 (1)	4 (1)	0.1 (-5.5 to 5.7)	
Acute coronary syndrome without acute myocardial infarction	28 (3)	7 (2)	1.6 (-4.0 to 7.2)	
Diagnosis of coronary disease	82 (9)	16 (3)	5.6 (0 to 11.2)	
Revascularization	23 (3)	4 (1)	1.7 (-3.9 to 7.3)	

## Repeat visits for similar symptoms

#### TABLE 7 Warranty Period for Prior Cardiac Testing

Test Modality	Result	Warranty Period
Anatomic	Normal coronary angiogram CCTA with no stenosis or plaque	2 у
Stress testing	Normal stress test (given adequate stress)	1 y

# Chest Pain with Bypass Grafts

COR	LOE	RECOMMENDATIONS
1	C-LD	<ol> <li>In patients with prior CABG surgery presenting with acute chest pain who do not have ACS, performing stress imaging is effective to evaluate for myocardial ischemia or CCTA for graft stenosis or occlusion (1-7).</li> </ol>



CCTA has a great degree of accuracy with a sensitivity and specificity of detecting graft occlusions, 99% and 99%, respectively



Large size of these vessels, decreased calcification, and decreased motion of grafts when compared with native arteries



#### Economic Considerations

- Total ED costs of care were reduced by 38.2%
- CCTA \$2,137
- Nuclear Pefusion \$3,458
- Cardiac Cath \$2,838

## The CT-STAT (Coronary Computed Tomographic Angiography for Systematic Triage of Acute Chest Pain Patients to Treatment) Trial

#### **Clinical Trial**

James A. Goldstein, Kavitha M. Chinnaiyan, Aiden Abidov, Stephan Achenbach, Daniel S. Berman, Sean W. Hayes, Udo Hoffmann, John R. Lesser, Issam A. Mikati, Brian J. O'Neil, Leslee J. Shaw, Michael Y.H. Shen, Uma S. Valeti, .... SEE ALL AUTHORS V

J Am Coll Cardiol. 2011 Sep, 58 (14) 1414-1422

### Limitations

- Spatial and temporal resolution. (very small structures, high/variable heart rates)
- Other tests are preferable for patients with multiple stents, extensive calcifications, or lesions of uncertain hemodynamic significance



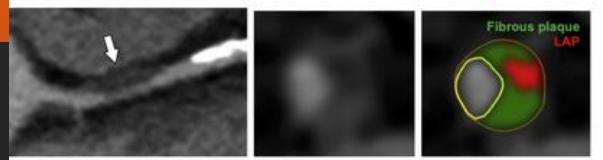
# Contraindications

- Allergy to iodinated contrast
- Inability to cooperate with scan acquisition and/or breath-hold instructions
- Clinical instability (eg, acute respiratory distress, severe hypotension, unstable arrhythmia)
- Renal impairment as defined by local protocols
- Contraindication to beta blockade in the presence of an elevated heart rate
- Heart rate variability and arrhythmia (relative)

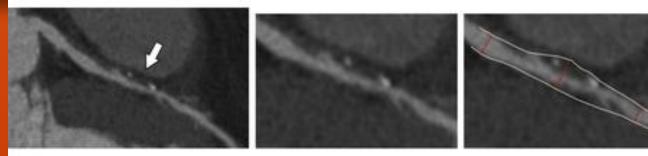
The Future of CCTA

#### Plaque assessment on CTA helps predict the risk of adverse cardiac events.

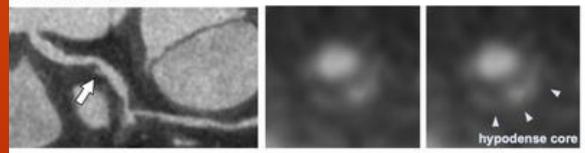
A Low-attenuation plaque



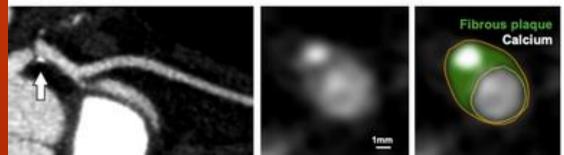
**B** Positive remodeling



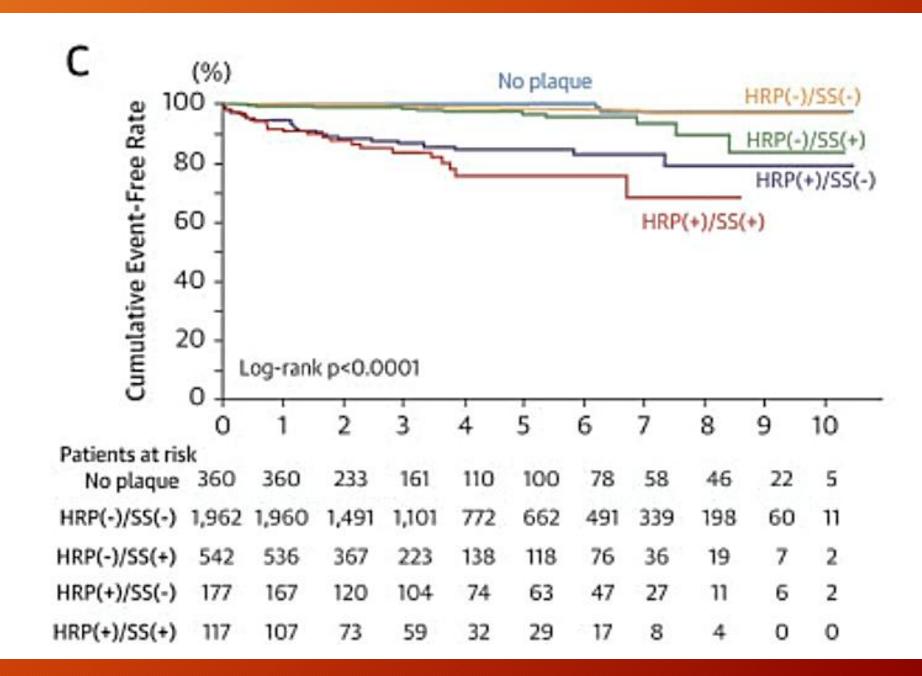
C Napkin-ring sign



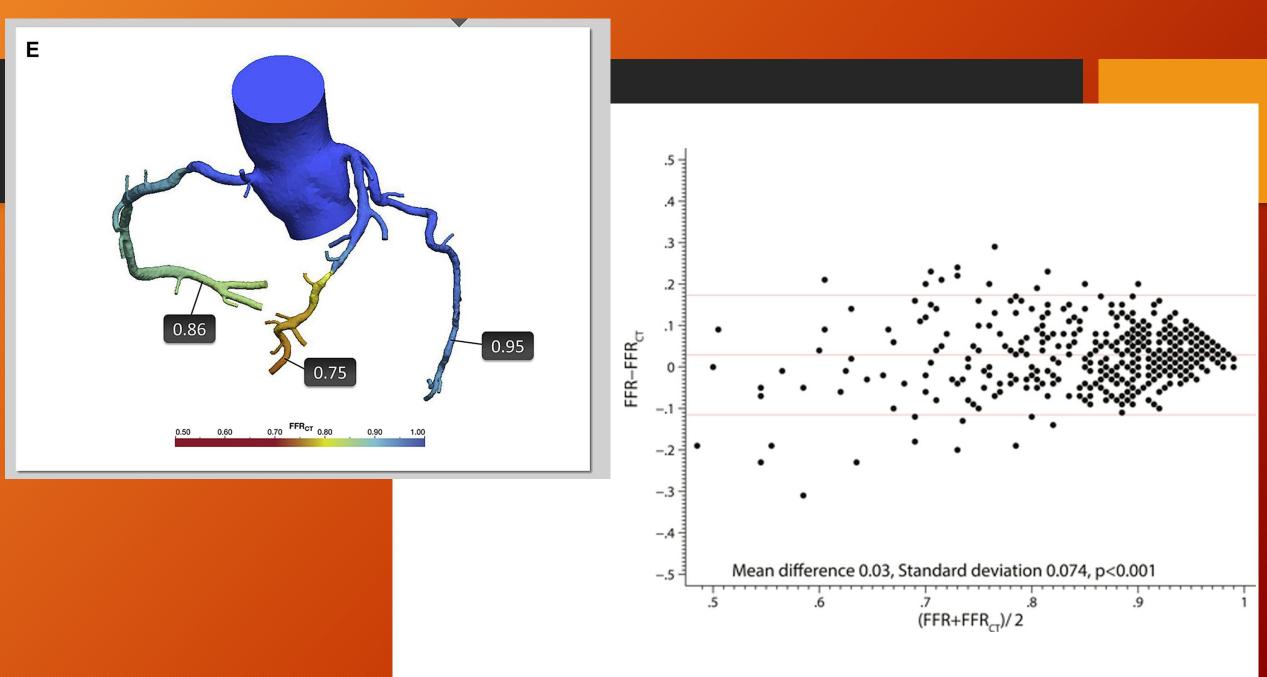
**D** Spotty calcification



Motoyama et al. Plaque Characterization by CCTA and the Likelihood of Acute Coronary Events in Mid-Term Follow Up JACC 2015

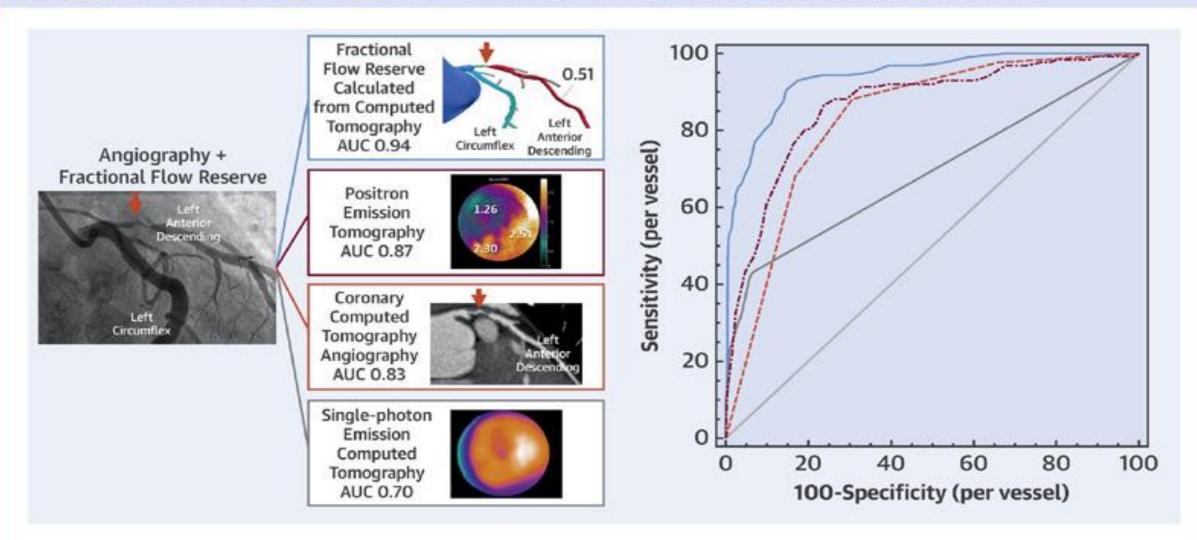


Motoyama et al. Plaque Characterization by CCTA and the Likelihood of Acute Coronary Events in Mid-Term Follow Up JACC 2015



Bjarne L. Nørgaard et al. J Am Coll Cardiol 2014; 63:1145-1155.

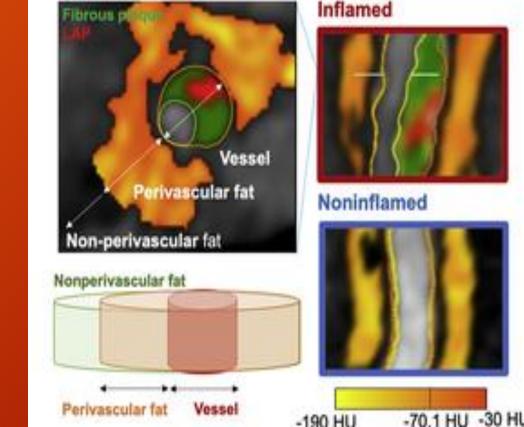
#### **CENTRAL ILLUSTRATION:** Discriminative Ability of Imaging Modalities for the Detection of Per-Vessel Fractional Flow Reserve-Defined Ischemia



Driessen, R.S. et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2019;73(2):161-73.

## **Other Future Advances**

- Techniques to reduce radiation exposure
- Dramatic improvements in stenosis visualization and characterization with software applications/AI
- Imaging biomarkers such as perivascular fat attenuation index, which identifies and quantifies inflammation
- On site CT FFR



# Choosing the right test

	Favors use of CCTA	Favors use of stress imaging
Goal	<ul> <li>Rule out obstructive CAD</li> <li>Detect Nonobstructive CAD</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Ischemia guided management</li> </ul>
Availability and expertise	<ul> <li>High quality imaging and exert interpretation routinely available</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>High quality imaging and expert interpretation routinely available</li> </ul>
Likelihood of obstructive CAD	• Age <65	• Age ≥65
Prior test results	<ul> <li>Prior functional study inconclusive</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Prior CCTA inconclusive</li> </ul>
Other compelling indications	<ul> <li>Anomalous coronary arteries</li> <li>Require evaluation of aorta or pulmonary arteries</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Suspect scar (especially if PET or stress CMR available)</li> <li>Suspect coronary microvascular dysfunction (when PET or CMR available)</li> </ul>



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