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Phase 3 program of the oral factor eleven A inhibitor asundexian as novel antithrombotic

OCEANIC AF

Currently Enrolling!

BAYER

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AF is a growing problem  
with greater morbidity and mortality

AF = most common cardiac arrhythmia, and growing

AF increases risk of stroke

6M  
12M  
'15 '20 '30 '40 '50

**~6 M**  
people with AF in U.S., expected to more than double by 2030<sup>1</sup>

**5x**  
greater risk of stroke with AF<sup>2</sup>

FXa Inhibitor Use is Rapidly Growing!

Guidelines recommend FXa inhibitors for patients with venous thromboembolism and atrial fibrillation<sup>1-3</sup>

AHA/ACC/HRS  
American Heart Association  
American College of Cardiology  
The Heart Rhythm Society

CHEST  
American College of Chest Physicians

ESC  
European Society of Cardiology

Over 6 million patients are currently on FXa inhibitors in the US<sup>4a</sup>

3 MILLION 2016  
4 MILLION 2017  
5 MILLION 2018  
6.7 MILLION 2019

1. Benjamin EJ, et al, Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics—2018 Update: A Report From the American Heart Association. Circulation. 2018; 137: e67-e492.  
2. Holmes DR, Seminars in Neurology 2010;30:528–536.

1. January CT, et al. J am Coll Cardiol. 2019;74(1):104-132. 2 Lip GYH, et al. Chest, 2018; 154(5): 1121-1201. 3. Steffel J, et al. Europace. 2021;23(10):1612-1676. 4. Data on File, REF-140412. AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP.

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Current Therapies

• Current Antithrombotic Options

• Aspirin

- Meta-analysis (8 trials, 4876 participants), reduced stroke by 22% (6-35%)
- Major bleeding risk 0.23%/year

• Warfarin

- Meta-analysis (6 trials, 2900 participants), reduced stroke by 64% (95% CI, 49-74%)
- Major bleeding risk ~6%

• Aspirin and Plavix

- Pooled analysis (5 studies involving 24,084 participants) reduced stroke vs. aspirin alone (p<0.05)
- Increased risk of major bleeding (p<0.05)

• Direct Oral Anticoagulants

• Compared to warfarin

- Dabigatran – lower ischemic stroke
- Apixaban/edoxaban – lower hemorrhagic stroke and major bleeding
- All DOACs – lower ICH

Bleeding complications!  
Antidote cost!

Ann Intern Med. 2007 Jun 19;146(12):857-67 Zheng SL JAMA. Published online January 22 2019  
J Manag Care Spec Pharm. 2017 Sep;23(9):968-978 Ruff CT, et al. Lancet 2013

Skeik N. Vasc Med. 2014 May 30;19(3):205-214

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### Patients on a FXa Inhibitor Hospitalized With a Major Bleed<sup>1,2</sup>

**Bleeding admissions continue to rise as FXa inhibitor\* use grows<sup>3-6</sup>**

Number of bleeding admissions

~90,000 2015  
~110,000 2016  
~140,000 2017  
~150,000 2018  
~190,000 2019

\*Rivaroxaban and apixaban.  
†From October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019.

Based on TRUVEN Health Analytics DOAC Market Data, 2017-2019.

~520 patients each day were hospitalized with a FXa inhibitor-related bleed in 2019<sup>6</sup>

~90 patients died each day following hospitalization as a result of FXa inhibitor-related bleeds<sup>5-7</sup>

On average, a hospital may see 3 to 4 FXa inhibitor-related life-threatening or uncontrolled bleeds per month<sup>1</sup>

1. Milling TJ Jr, et al. *Am J Emerg Med*. 2018;36(3):396-402. 2. Kaatz S, et al. *J Blood Med*. 2017;8:141-149. 3. Data on File. REF-138702. AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP. 4. Data on File. REF-138708. AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP. 5. Data on File. US-63403. AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP. 6. *Prescriber*. 2019;19(1):127-135. 7. Heid C, et al. *Eur Heart J*. 2015;36(20):1554-1572. 8. Coleman CL, et al. *Future Cardiol*. 2011;1(1):127-135.

1. Truven Health Analytics, 12 months ending December 31, 2016 for Commercial, Medicare and Medicaid pts.  
2. Skaistis J, et al. *Plos One*. 2015;10(9):e0137444.

### Annual Hospitalizations for Major Bleeds<sup>1</sup>

117,000

### Annual Deaths Related to Major Bleeds<sup>2</sup>

20,000

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## Rocket AF and Aristotle Trials

	Major Bleed (%/Year)	ICH (%/Year)	GI Bleed (%/Year)
Rivaroxaban (ROCKET-AF)	3.6%	0.5%	3.2%
Apixaban (ARISTOTLE)	2.13%	0.33%	0.76%

### ROCKET AF Trial

### ARISTOTLE Trial

■ All-Cause Mortality ■ ICH-Related Mortality

Patel MR et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2011;365(10):883-991.  
Granger CB et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2011;365(11):981-992.

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## FXIa Inhibitor History

- Preclinical
  - FXI-deficient mice studies → benefit in reduced thrombus formation with no increase in bleeding time (even when given with dual antiplatelet agents), as seen in DOAC models<sup>1</sup>
  - Inherited FXI deficiency → lower clinical aPTT and categorized as mild bleeding phenotype with no direct association between activity levels and bleeding risk<sup>2</sup>.
    - A lower stroke risk was particularly evident in patients with AF<sup>4</sup>
- Phase 1 studies
  - no relevant bleeding events were reported, shown to be safe and well tolerated<sup>3</sup>
- Phase 2 studies
  - Less bleeding compared to apixaban in AF patients, with some also receiving antiplatelet therapy
  - PACIFIC studies → n=4164, support for Asundexian 50mg dose selection, lower incidence of bleeding than apixaban, and potential benefit in prevention of ischemic strokes and TIAs


1. Wang X et al. Effects of factor IX or factor XI deficiency on ferric chloride-induced carotid artery occlusion in mice. J Thromb Haemost. 2005 Apr;3(4):695-702 2. Viess M et al. Role of Factor Xia and Plasma Kallikrein in Arterial and Venous Thrombosis. Thromb Haemost. 2020 Jun;120(6):883-993. 3. Kubitz D. et al. Safety, pharmacodynamics, and pharmacokinetics of single doses of BAY 59-7939, an oral, direct factor Xa inhibitor. Clin Pharmacol Ther. 2005 Oct;78(4):412-21 4. Georgi B. et al. Leveraging Human Genetics to Estimate Clinical Risk Reductions Achievable by Inhibiting Factor XI. Stroke. 2019 Nov;50(11):3004-12.




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## Asundexian: Mechanism of Action

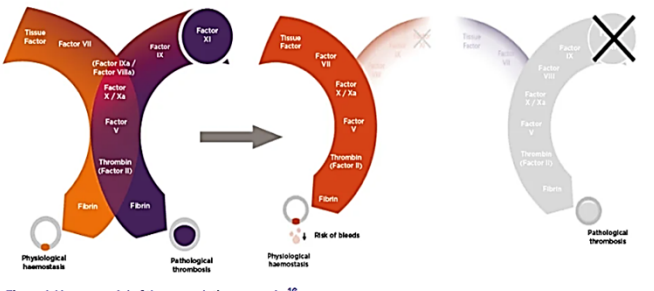
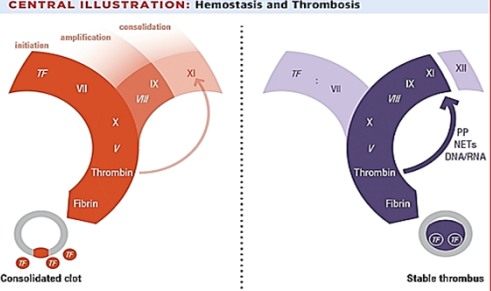



Figure 1: Newer model of the coagulation cascade.<sup>16</sup>

### CENTRAL ILLUSTRATION: Hemostasis and Thrombosis




Hsu, C. et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2021;78(6):625-631.


#### Heparins



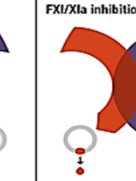
#### VKA




#### DOACs




#### FXI/XIa inhibition/deficiency




Through selective inhibition of the intrinsic pathway, asundexian may prevent pathological clot formation (thrombosis) without hindering hemostasis (physiologic response to injury)




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# OCEANIC-AF

Phase 3 program of the Oral Factor Eleven A Inhibitor asundexian as novel antithroboC  
– Atrial Fibrillation study

Coming February 2023!  
EPIC message: MCHH EP OCEANIC-AF

**CONDITION:**  
Atrial Fibrillation

**PI:**  
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**Sub-I:**  
Manju Pai, MD  
Kris Krueger, MD, PhD

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**SPONSOR:**  
Bayar AG

**DESCRIPTION:**

OCEANIC-AF is a multicenter, international, randomized, active comparator-controlled, double-blind, double-dummy, parallel-group, phase 3 study.

The purpose of the study is to investigate the efficacy of the oral FXIa inhibitor asundexian in prevention of stroke and systemic embolism and its safety (bleeding risk) compared with apixaban in adult participants with AF at risk for stroke. Asundexian is expected to have superior or at least similar efficacy while leading to less bleeding when compared with the NOAC apixaban.

Expected to be conducted at 1100 sites, with 18,000 participants randomized over 2 years (already underway). Patients are expected to be on study drug 9-33 months.

**CRITERIA LIST/ QUALIFICATIONS:**

Inclusion:

- Documented AF with indication for indefinite treatment with oral AC
- CHA<sub>2</sub>DS<sub>2</sub>-VASc score ≥3 (male) or ≥4 (female) **OR** 2 (male) or 3 (female) with 1 of the following:
  - Age ≥70, previous stroke, TIA or SE, renal dysfunction with eGFR <50, prior non-traumatic major bleeding, current single agent antiplatelet therapy for 6+ months, ≤6 consecutive weeks of treatment with oral AC

Exclusion:

- Mechanical heart valve prosthesis (TAVR ok)
- Moderate-to-severe mitral stenosis
- AF only due to reversible cause
- Successful ablation, LAA occlusion, or plans for 1 in next 6 months
- Recent ischemic stroke
- Active non-trivial bleeding, chronic bleeding disorder, hx non-traumatic intracranial hemorrhage
- Significant liver disease or hepatic insufficiency
- eGFR < 25 at randomization
- Major surgery in last 30 days
- Chronic AC for non-AF reason, dual AP therapy
- VKA in past 10 days prior to randomization
- NSAIDs for +4 weeks during study period
- Combined P-gp and strong/mod CYP3A4 inducers

SCREENING  
≤ 14 days

TREATMENT DURATION: 9-33 months

FOLLOW-UP  
2 weeks after end of study drug intake

✓ Informed Consent

RND  
N=18000



Asundexian 50 mg OD  
N=9000



Apixaban 5 mg or 25 mg BID\*  
N=9000

VISIT 1 VISIT 2 VISIT 3 VISIT 4 VISITS 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, etc.\* VISITS 6, 8, 10, 12, etc.\* CEOT VISIT CEOT FU

Screening CRF 1 MI MI MI, 12, 16, 24, 30, etc. MI, 12, 21, 27, etc. – MDT CRF 2 2Y

Duration of Treatment: ~9-33 months









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# OCEANIC-AF Endpoints

	Objectives	Endpoints
Primary	<b>Efficacy</b> Asundexian is superior to apixaban for prevention of stroke or SE	• Composite of stroke or systemic embolism
	<b>Safety</b> Asundexian is superior to apixaban as assessed by ISTH major bleeding	• ISTH major bleeding
	<b>Net clinical benefit</b> Compare the effects of asundexian and apixaban with respect to benefit and risk	• Composite of stroke, systemic embolism or ISTH major bleeding

	Objectives	Endpoints
Secondary	<b>Efficacy</b> Compare the effects of asundexian and apixaban with respect to composite and individual efficacy endpoints	• Composite of ischemic stroke or systemic embolism • All-cause mortality • Ischemic stroke • CV death • Composite of CV death, stroke, or MI
	<b>Safety</b> Compare asundexian and apixaban with respect to composite and individual bleeding endpoints	• Composite of ISTH major or CRNMB • Clinically relevant non-major bleeding • Hemorrhagic stroke • Intracranial hemorrhage • Fatal bleeding • Minor bleeding
	<b>Net clinical benefit</b> To compare the benefit and risk of asundexian and apixaban with respect to a composite of efficacy and safety endpoints	• Composite of stroke, systemic embolism, or ISTH major bleeding, or all-cause mortality • Composite of disabling stroke (mRS ≥ 3), critical bleeding, or all-cause mortality





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## OCEANIC-AF Risks

Potential Risk of Clinical Significance	Summary of Data / Rationale for Risk	Mitigation Strategy
Study Intervention asundexian		
A risk for bleeding cannot be excluded in participants with AF included in the Phase 3 study and randomized to asundexian or to the comparator apixaban.	Bleeding is the main safety concern related to antithrombotic therapies. For an inhibitor of FXIa a lower bleeding risk is expected than with the comparator drug.	Exclusion criteria are phrased to exclude patients with a higher risk for bleeding (e.g. recent major surgery / active bleeding at randomization). Bleeding will be closely monitored in the study and will be adjudicated by an independent Clinical Events Committee. Furthermore, an IDMC will be installed monitoring unblinded study data on an ongoing basis.
Liver-related adverse effects.	The findings regarding liver-related adverse events were reassuring during the PACIFIC Phase 2 studies. Liver-related adverse effects will continue to be monitored to further characterize the clinical profile of asundexian.	Patients with known significant liver disease or known hepatic insufficiency classified as Child-Pugh B or C will be excluded from Phase 3, liver parameters are part of the safety laboratory panel and follow-up will be required for certain liver events. Furthermore, an IDMC will be installed monitoring unblinded study data on an ongoing basis.

Study drug will be discontinued if:

- ALT/AST > 8 x ULN
- ALT/AST > 5 ULN for 2+ weeks
- ALT/AST > 3 ULN and (total bilirubin >2 x ULN or INR 1.5)
- ALT/AST > 3 ULN with appearance of fatigue, nausea, vomiting, RUQ pain/tenderness, fever, rash, and/ or eosinophilia (>5%)









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## OCEANIC-AF Screening and Enrollment

- Screening from EP clinic
  - Estimated to look at ~75 patient charts per week
  - Coordinator will send staff message if you have a patient that looks eligible for screening
- Accepting referrals
  - Send staff message, including patient chart, to **MCHH EP OCEANIC-AF** pool
  - Coordinator will complete pre-screen and get back to you prior to patient visit, if scheduled
- Able to meet at Centennial Lakes (pending) and ANW clinic for initial discussion, but screening/randomization will need to be at ANW
- Current goal is to enroll 2-3 patients per week.
- Already enrolled first patient!





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Questions???

Thank you!

OCEANIC-AF Team

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# Non-invasive approach to coronary microvascular disease diagnosis

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Section Head, Cardiac Imaging  
Director, Cardiac MRI and Structural CT Labs  
Director, Cardiovascular Imaging Research Center and Core Lab  
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**MHIF**  
**IMAGING**  
Cardiovascular Imaging  
Research Center & Core Lab

Research Center & Core Lab  
**May 22nd 2023**

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Personal Disclosures:

- Consultant (4C Medical, Abbott Structural, Anteris, AriaCV, Boston Scientific, Edwards Lifesciences, JenaValve, Medtronic, VDyn, WL Gore, Xylocor)
- Research Collaborations (Siemens Healthineers, Dr. Peter Kellman, NIH/NHLBI)
- Research Grant: Abbott Structural, Boston Scientific, Edwards Lifesciences, Abbott Northwestern Hospital Foundation
- Co-Investigator for SUMMIT Trial, Triluminate (sponsor: Abbott)


Imaging Core Lab:

- Institutional Contracts: Abbott, Boston Scientific, Edwards Lifesciences, Medtronic
- Research Support: Circle CV Imaging, Medis, 3Mensio
- Research Grants: Siemens Healthineers, Ziosoft




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“All that wheezes is not asthma...”  
“All that causes angina/ischemic chest pain is not epicardial CAD.”

**Symptoms and signs of myocardial ischemia with angiographically normal coronaries**

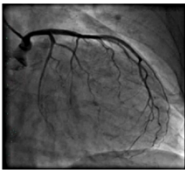
*Clinical Progress Series*

**Pathophysiological Dilemma of Syndrome X**

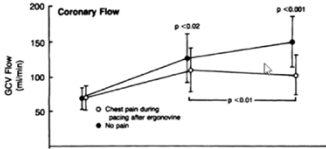
Richard O. Cannon III, MD; Paolo G. Camici, MD; and Stephen E. Epstein, MD



Typical angina  
±ST depression



Normal coronary angiogram



Coronary Flow

GCV Flow (ml/min)

Time (min)


□ Chest pain during pacing after angina  
● No pain

p < 0.02  
p < 0.01  
p < 0.001

Circulation Vol 85, No 3 March 1992

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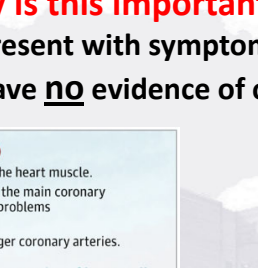
## Why is this important!?


2/3 of women who present with symptoms of chest pain and ischemia (angina), have no evidence of obstructive disease


### Coronary microvascular dysfunction (CMD)

The coronary arteries carry blood from the aorta to the heart muscle. Damage to the small blood vessels that branch off of the main coronary arteries, the coronary microvasculature, can lead to problems with the blood supply to the heart.

CMD can occur even if there is no blockage of the larger coronary arteries.







Health • Diseases & Conditions • Cardiovascular Disease • Heart

Microvascular Disease Is Hard to Detect and Very Dangerous

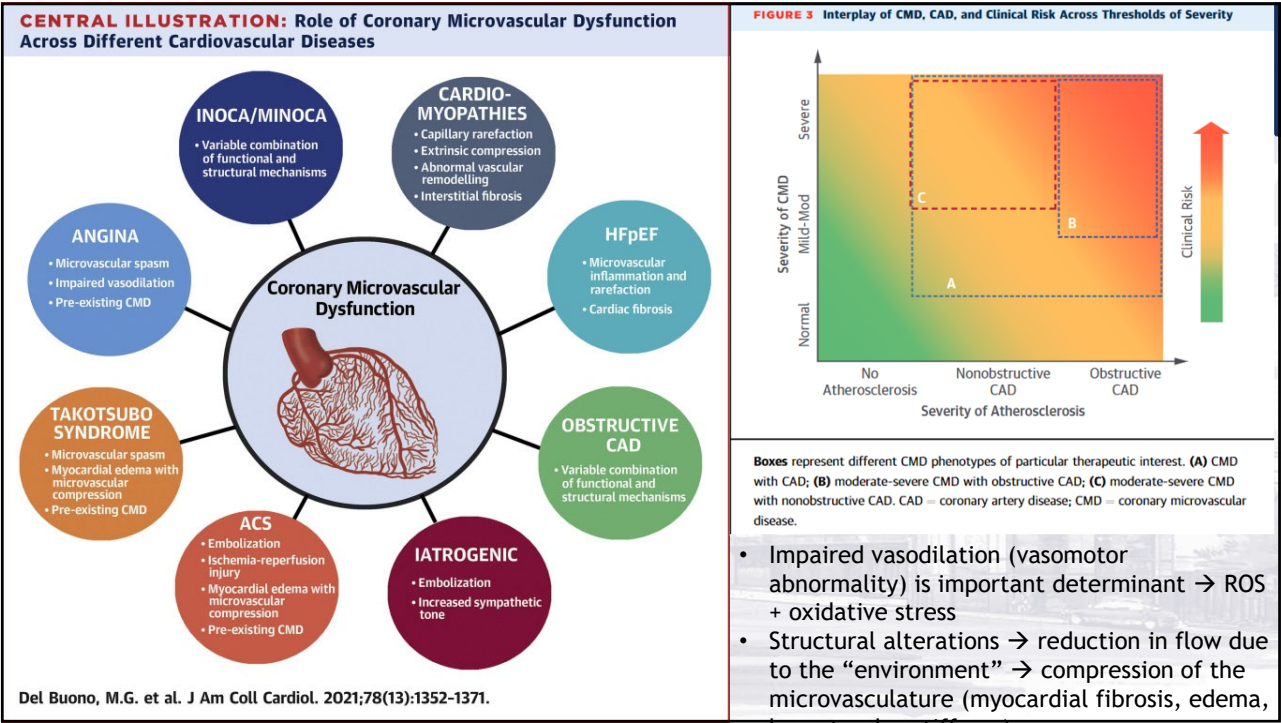
✚ CMD can cause chest pain, shortness of breath, heart attack, and heart failure.

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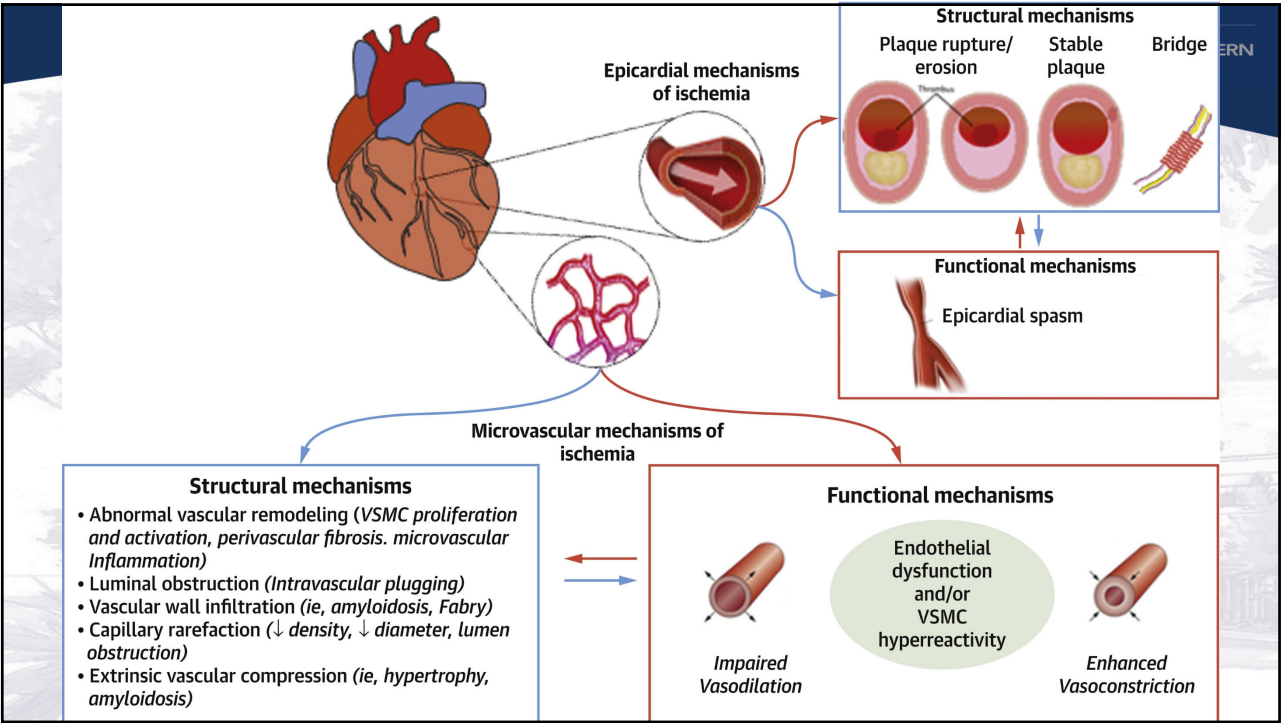
**Normal Structure and Function of Coronary Macro- and Microcirculation**

Structure	Epicardial Arteries (>400 μm)	Pre-Arterioles (100-400 μm)	Arterioles (40-100 μm)	Capillaries (<10 μm)
Structure	Adventitia, Media, Intima, Lumen	Endothelial cell	Endothelial cell	Endothelial cell
Function	Conduit vessels	Metabolic control and regulation of flow distribution	Exchange vessels	Exchange vessels
Total resistance (%)	5%	20%	60%	15%

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**FIGURE 6** Conceptual Illustration of Overlapping Phenotypes in CMD and Potential Therapeutic Strategies

**A Patient Subgroups**

**B Potential Therapies**

**(A) CMD phenotypes. (B) Potential therapeutic strategies.** CKD = chronic kidney disease; CMP = cardiomyopathy; GLP = glucagon-like peptide; HFpEF = heart failure with preserved ejection fraction; INOCA = ischemia and no obstructive coronary artery disease; IOCA = ischemia and obstructive coronary artery disease; PCSK-9 = pro-protein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 9; SGLT = sodium-glucose cotransporter.

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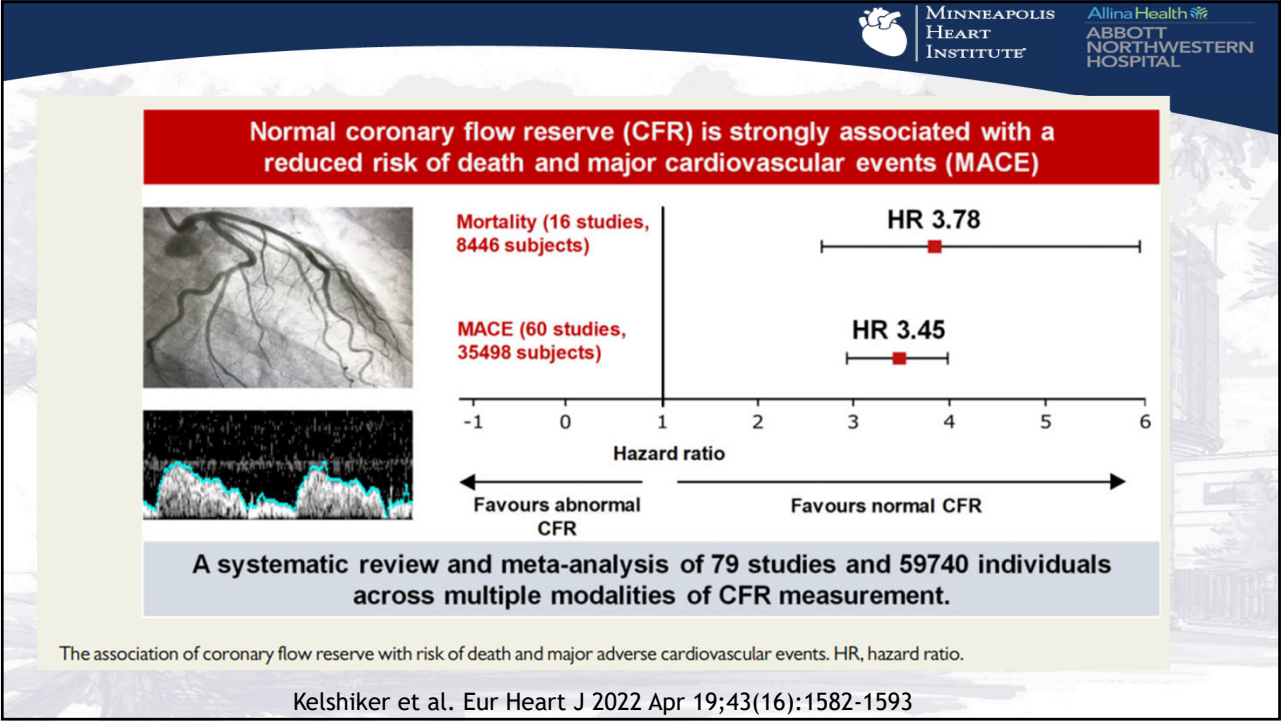
# Diagnostic Criteria for Microvascular Angina and Vasospastic Angina in INOCA Patients

Criteria	Microvascular Angina	Vasospastic Angina
1. Symptoms of myocardial ischemia	Effort or rest angina	Nitrate-responsive angina - during spontaneous episode, with at least one of these: a. Rest angina, especially between night and early morning b. Marked diurnal variation in exercise tolerance, reduced in morning c. Hyperventilation can precipitate an episode d. Calcium channel blockers suppress episodes
2. Absence of obstructive CAD (<50% diameter reduction or FFR >0.80)	Coronary CTA Invasive coronary angiography	Coronary CTA Invasive coronary angiography
3. Objective evidence of myocardial ischemia	Presence of reversible defect, abnormality or flow reserve on a functional imaging test	Transient ischemic ECG changes - during spontaneous episode, including any of the following in at least two contiguous leads: a. ST elevation $\geq 0.1$ mV b. ST depression $\geq 0.1$ mV c. New negative U waves
4. Evidence of coronary dysfunction	Impaired coronary flow reserve (cut-off $\leq 2.0$ or $\leq 2.5$ depending on methodology used), invasive or noninvasively determined Coronary microvascular spasm, defined as reproduction of symptoms, ischemic ECG shifts but no epicardial spasm during acetylcholine testing Abnormal coronary microvascular resistance indice (e.g. IMR $\geq 25$ ) Coronary slow flow phenomenon, defined as TIMI frame count >25	Coronary artery spasm - defined as transient total or subtotal coronary artery occlusion (>90% constriction) with angina and ischemic ECG changes either spontaneously or in response to a provocative stimulus (acetylcholine, ergot, or hyperventilation)
<p>"Definitive" if all four criteria are met; "suspected" if criteria 1+2 are met but only criteria 3 or 4 are present or equivocal.<sup>1118</sup> CAD, coronary artery disease; CTA, computed tomographic angiography; FFR, fractional flow reserve; IMR, index of microcirculatory resistance; TIMI, thrombolysis in myocardial infarction.</p>		

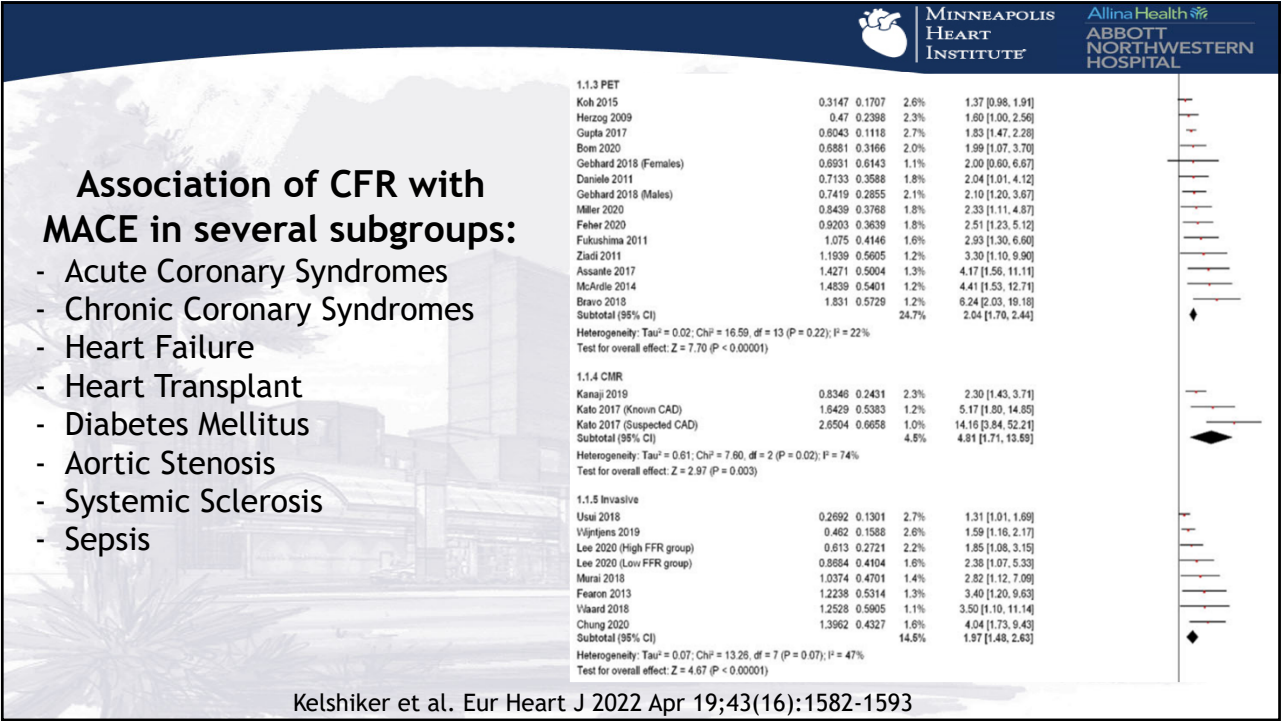
Coronary Vasomotor Disorders International Study (COVAD)  
Tacon PR, Wei J. ACC.org/Cardiology. Sept 2018

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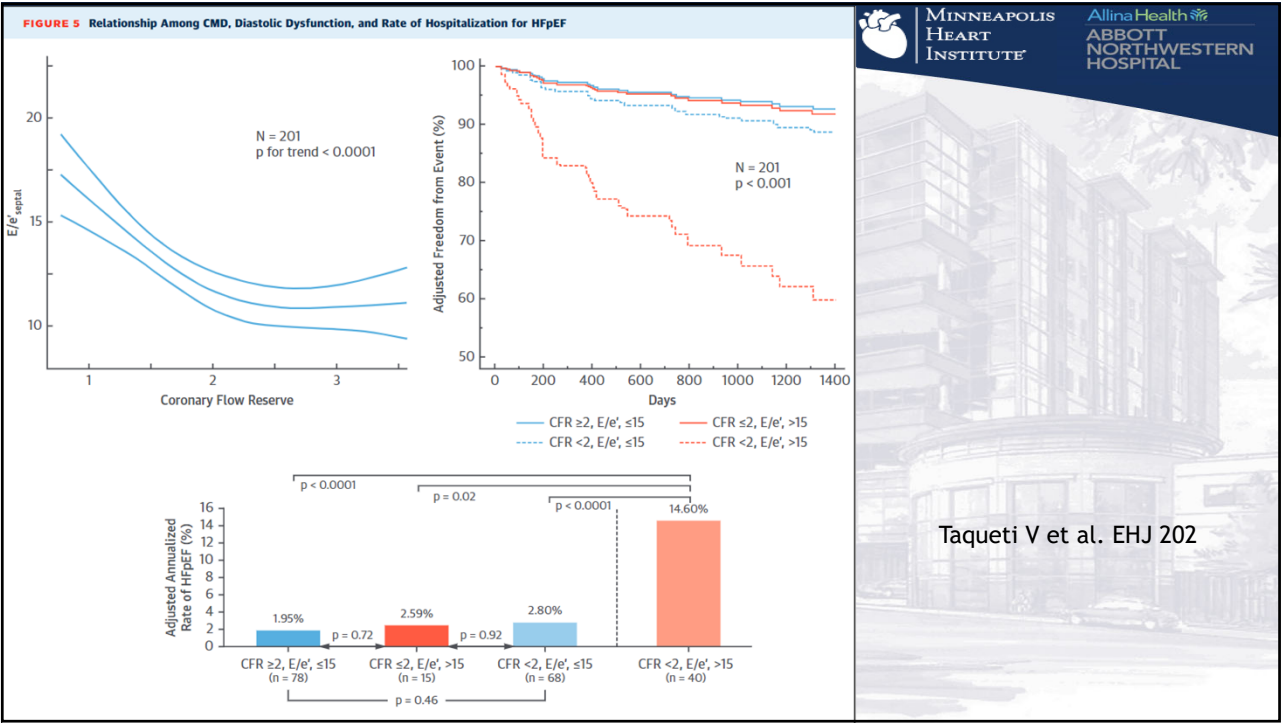




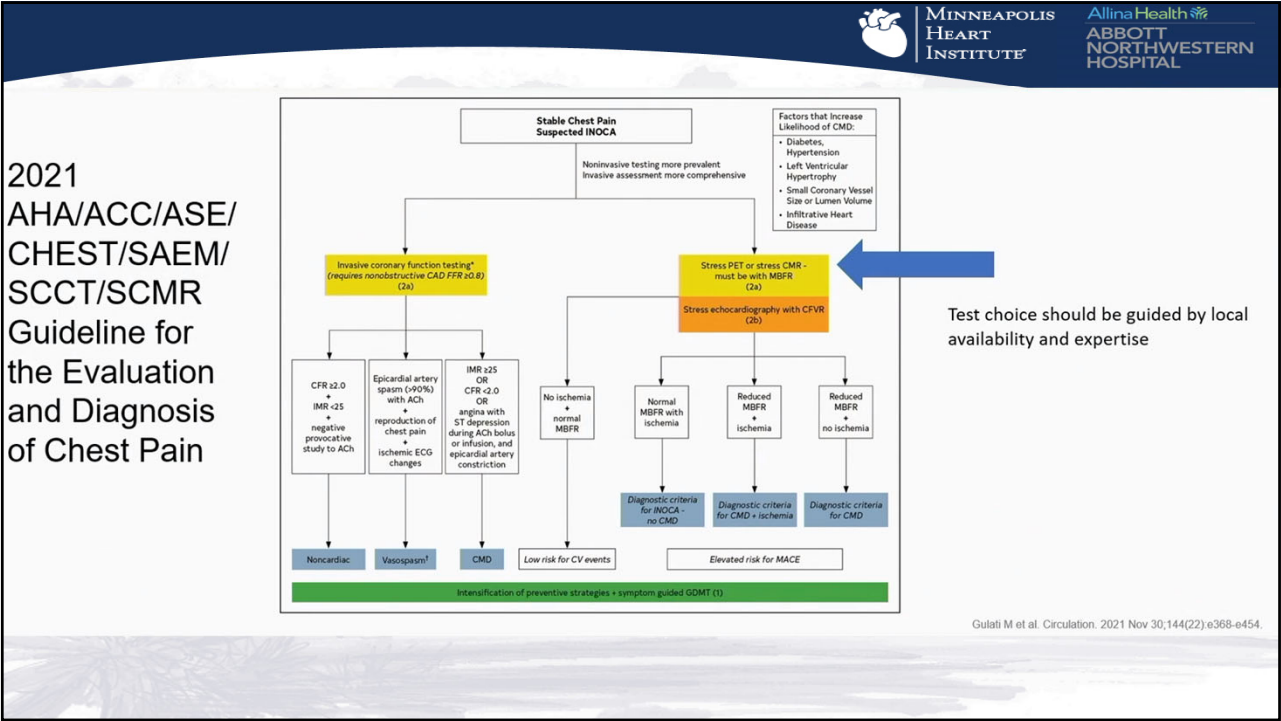
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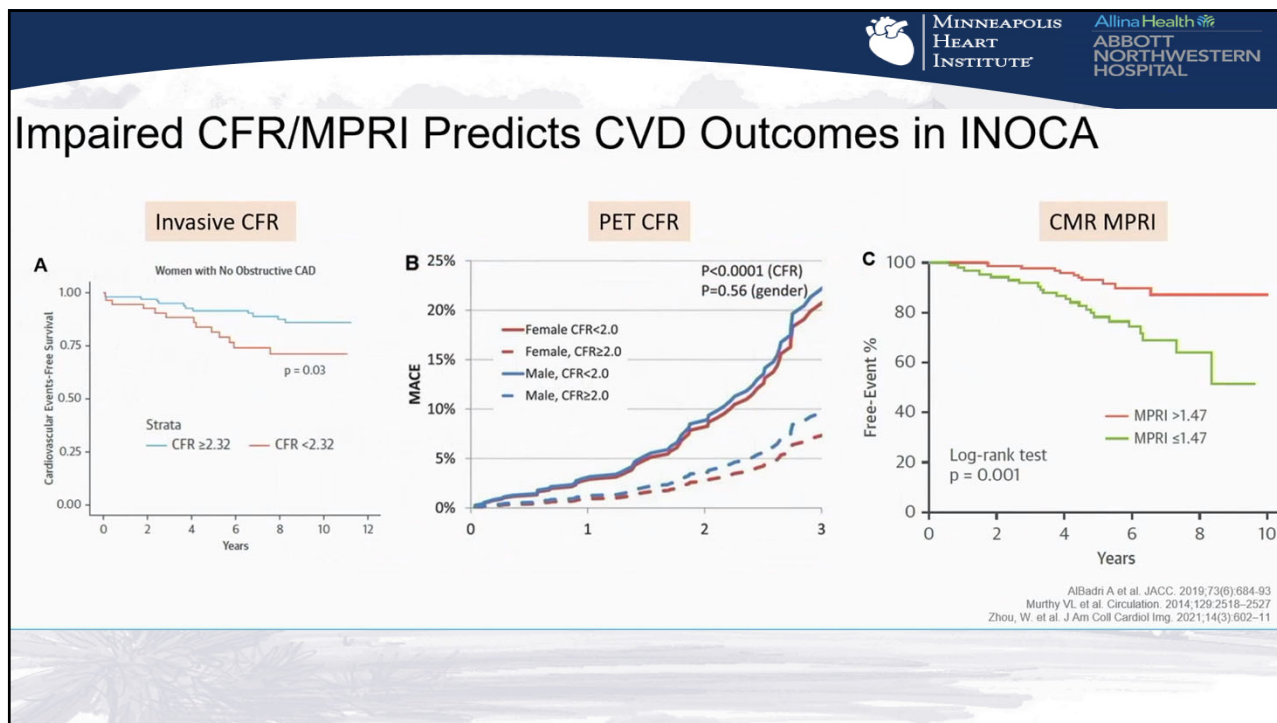
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Modality	Technique	Agent	Parameter	Diagnostic Threshold	Pros	Cons
Echocardiography	Pulsed-wave Doppler on the proximal LAD artery	Adenosine Dipyridamole Regadenoson	CFRV	CFRV <2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inexpensive</li> <li>• No radiation exposure</li> <li>• No risks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited to LAD region</li> <li>• Extensive training</li> <li>• Technical pitfalls (poor acoustic window in obese, lung diseases)</li> <li>• Obstructive CAD needs to be excluded</li> <li>• Very limited data with use in non-obstructive CAD</li> </ul>
PET	Dynamic rest and vasodilator stress perfusion imaging	Adenosine Dipyridamole Regadenoson <sup>13</sup> Nammonia, <sup>82</sup> Rb	MPR <sup>a</sup> MBF	MPR <2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gold standard for noninvasive assessment of coronary microvascular function</li> <li>• Global evaluation of microvascular function</li> <li>• Low radiation exposure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited availability</li> <li>• Limited spatial resolution</li> <li>• High costs</li> <li>• Obstructive CAD needs to be excluded</li> </ul>
CMR	Dynamic first-pass vasodilator stress and then rest perfusion images	Adenosine Dipyridamole Regadenoson Gadolinium-based contrast agents	MPR <sup>a</sup> MBF MPRI	MPRI <2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No radiation exposure</li> <li>• Excellent spatial resolution</li> <li>• All coronary territories can be evaluated at the same time</li> <li>• Tissue characterization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High costs</li> <li>• Time-consuming</li> <li>• Poor patient compliance</li> <li>• Limited availability</li> <li>• Limited ability for absolute quantification of MBF</li> <li>• Obstructive CAD needs to be excluded</li> <li>• Imaging artifacts</li> <li>• Contraindicated in patients with severe renal disease, claustrophobia, arrhythmias, and implanted devices</li> <li>• Still under research investigation</li> </ul>
CT scan	Dynamic first-pass vasodilator stress and then rest perfusion imaging	Adenosine Dipyridamole Regadenoson Iodine-based contrast agent	MPR <sup>a</sup>	MPR <2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combination of coronary anatomy and coronary perfusion data</li> <li>• Evaluation of all coronary territories</li> <li>• CTA-derived FFR</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Radiation exposure</li> <li>• Risk of kidney disease</li> <li>• Overestimation of MBF (caused by the vasodilatory effect of iodinated contrast)</li> <li>• Limited ability for absolute quantification of MBF</li> <li>• Still under research investigation</li> </ul>

<sup>a</sup>MPR is preferred to CFR when is not calculated invasively.

CAD = coronary artery disease; CFRV = coronary flow reserve velocity; CMR = cardiac magnetic resonance; CT = computed tomography; FFR = fractional flow reserve; LAD = left anterior descending artery; MBF = myocardial blood flow; MPR = myocardial perfusion reserve; MPRI = myocardial perfusion reserve index; PET = positron emission tomography.

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# PET: the gold standard for the non-invasive measurement of myocardial blood flow

*PET with  $H_2^{15}O$  or  $^{13}NH_3$  allows accurate, reproducible and non-invasive measurement of absolute (ml/min/g) myocardial blood flow in man*

Accuracy of PET MBF measurement

$y = 0.15 + 0.97x, r = 0.87, r^2 = 0.76$

PET MBF ( $\text{mL} \cdot \text{g}^{-1} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$ )

Microspheres MBF ( $\text{mL} \cdot \text{g}^{-1} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$ )

*In pigs*

Reproducibility of PET MBF measurement

Baseline Adenosine

*In humans*

MBF ( $\text{mL}/\text{min}/\text{g}$ )

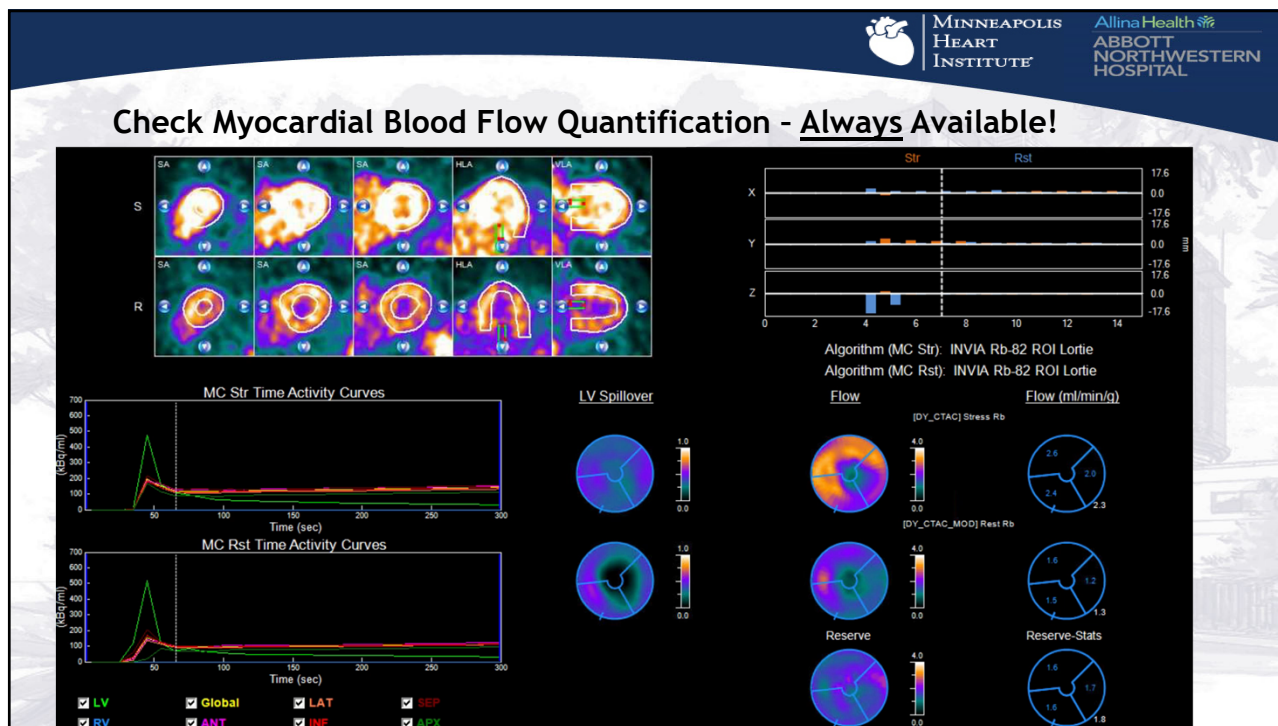
Baseline 1 Baseline 2 Ado 1 Ado 2

Camici PG, Rimoldi OE. J Nucl Med. 2009; 50:1076–1087.

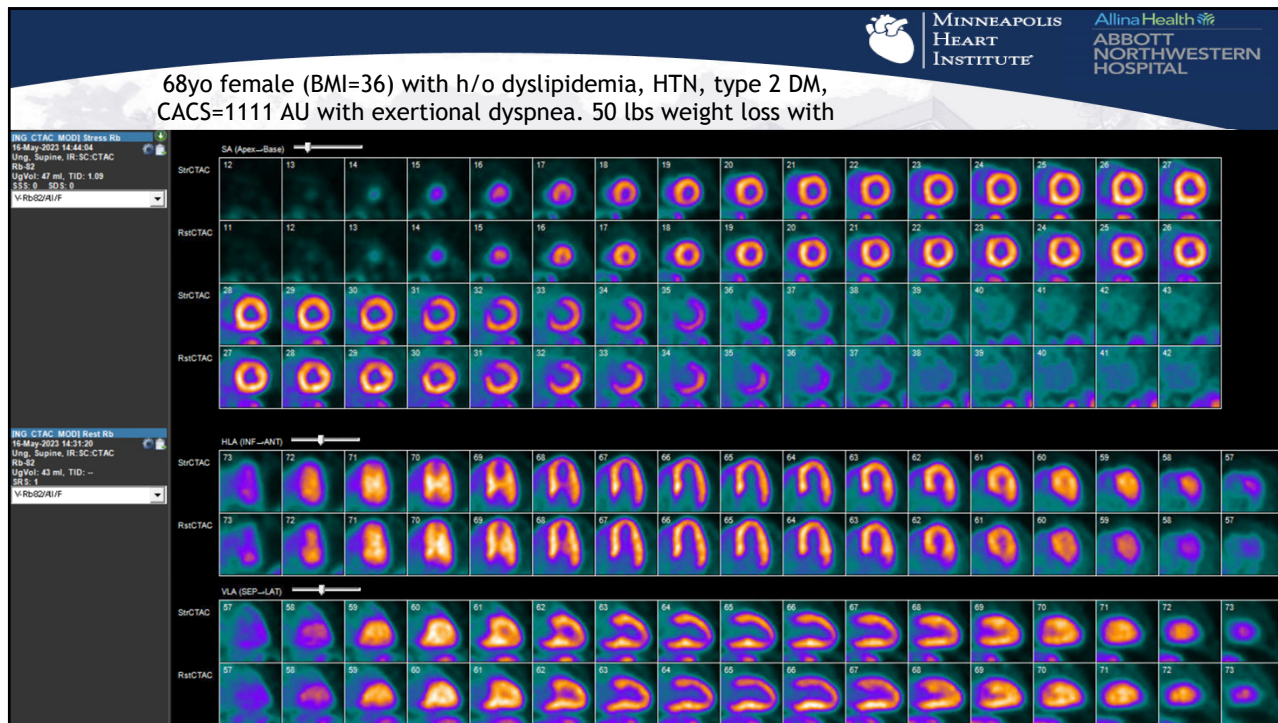
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[illegible]

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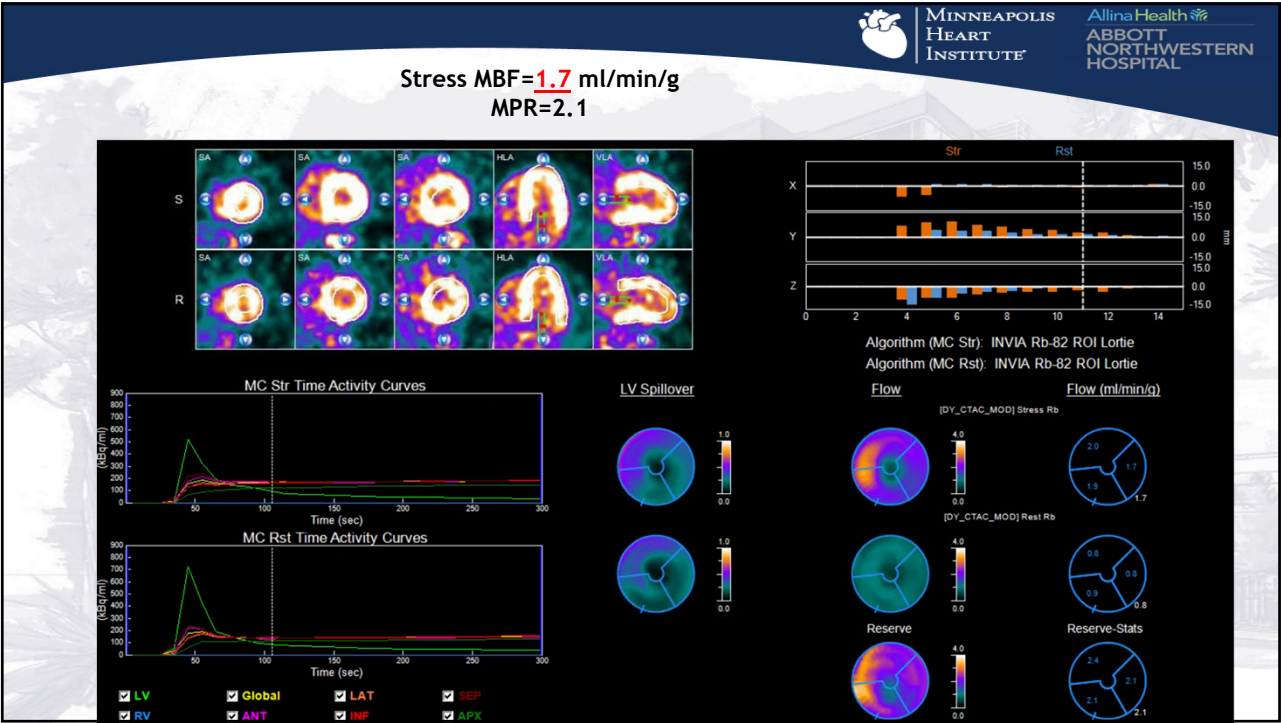


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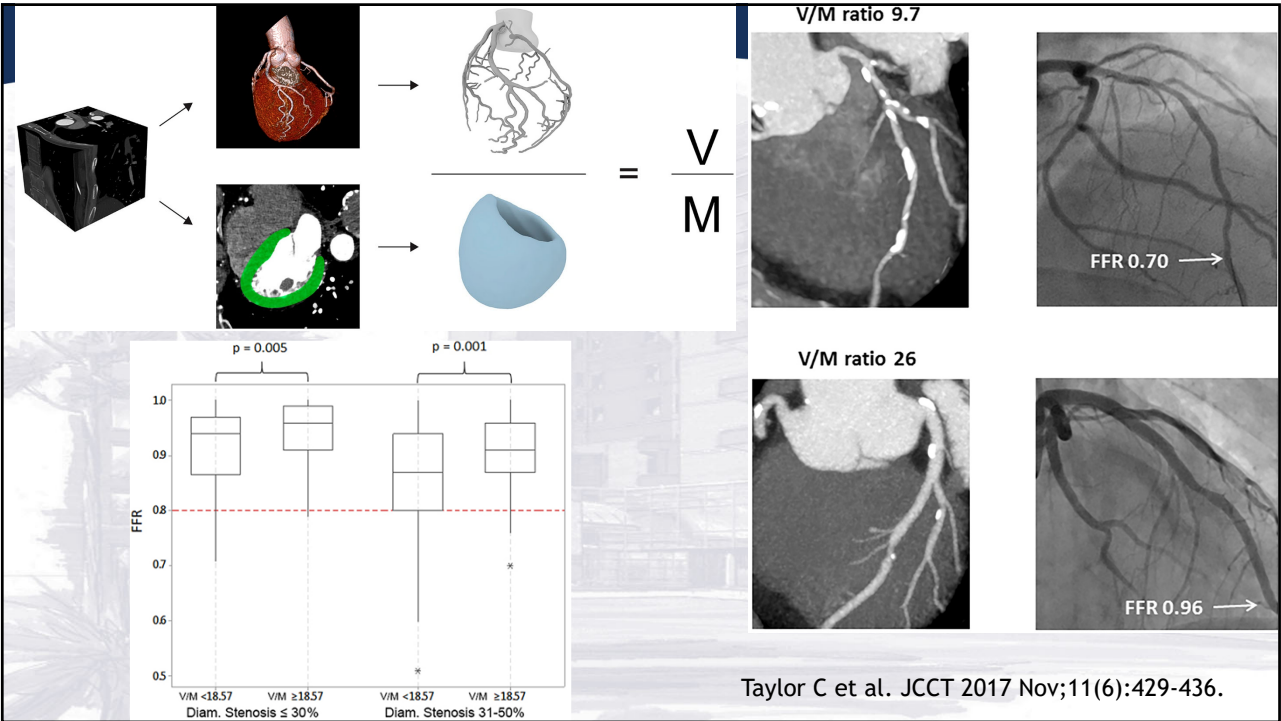


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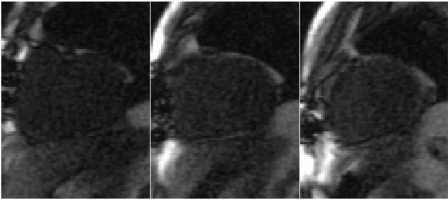
MINNEAPOLIS  
HEART  
INSTITUTE



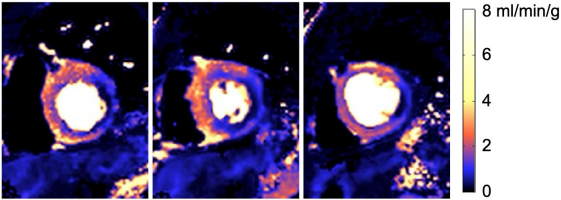
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NORTHWESTERN  
HOSPITAL

# MRI cardiovascular stress testing

myocardial perfusion imaging



quantitative perfusion mapping



visual assessment:


- time consuming
- subjective

quantitative assessment:


- rapid
- objective

Kellman P et al, JCMR 2017; 19:43

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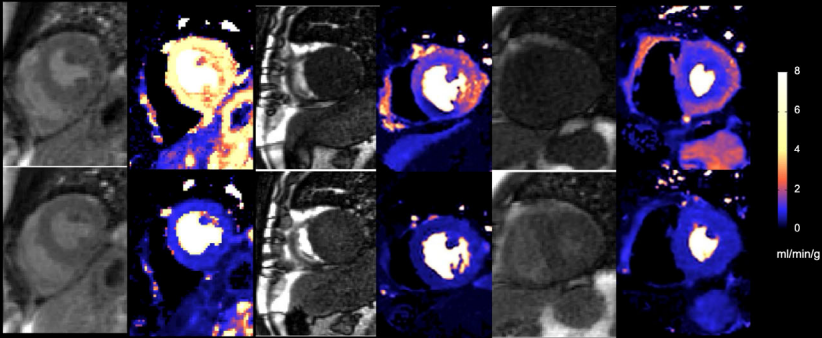
# Quantitative Perfusion Improves Identification of 3V CAD

(moco) images

quantitative maps

Stress

Rest



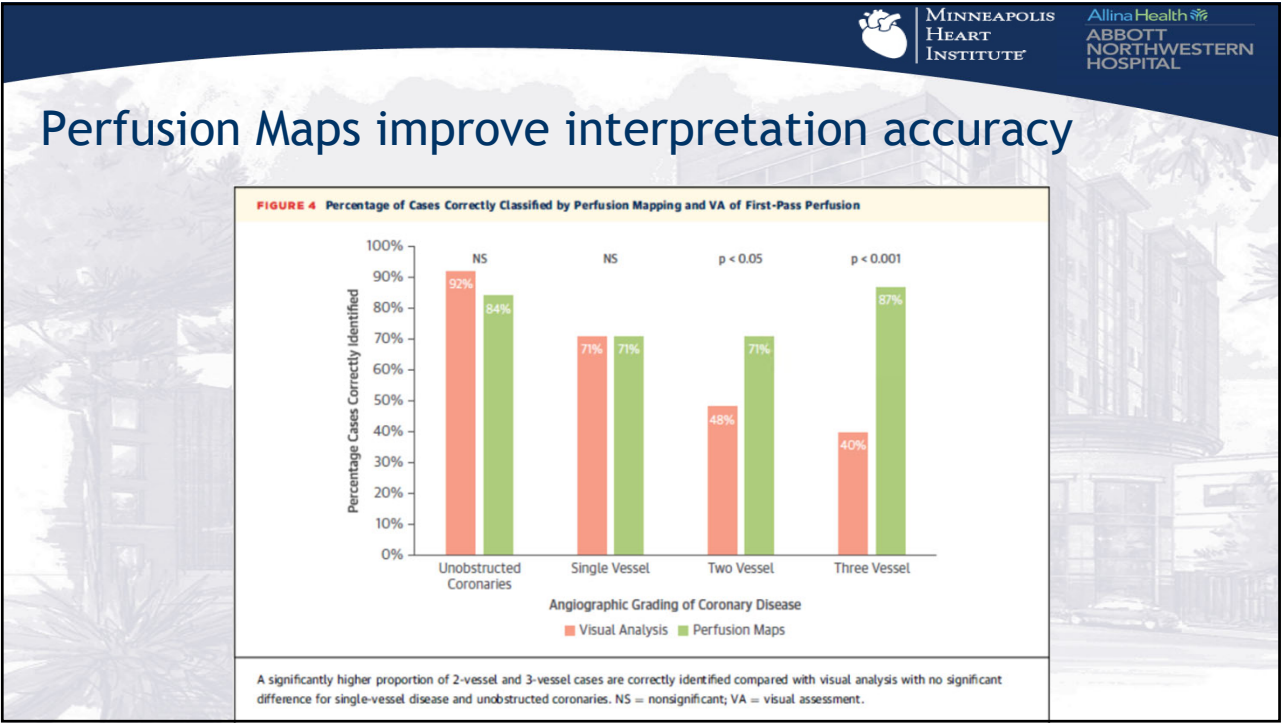
normal subject

single vessel disease

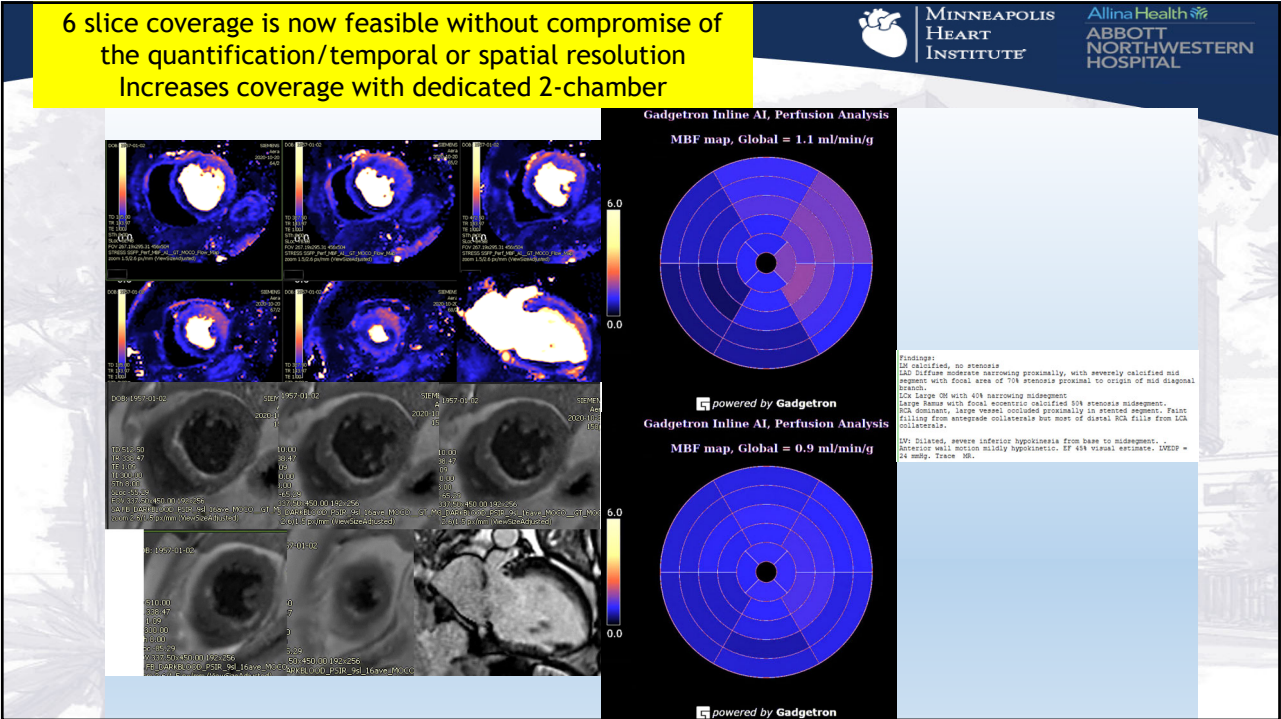
triple vessel disease

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18 of 53



37



38



## Validation against coronary physiology

39

# CMR Quantitative Perfusion Correlates well with Cardiac PET

**a** CMR

Stress

Rest

Base Mid Apex

**b** PET

Stress

Rest

ml/min/g

ml/min/g

**a** Global myocardial perfusion

Myocardial perfusion by CMR (ml/min/g)

Myocardial perfusion by PET (ml/min/g)

$y = 0.94x + 0.14$   
 $r = 0.92$

**b** Global myocardial perfusion

Difference between PET and CMR (ml/min/g)

Mean MP for PET and CMR (ml/min/g)

+2SD

Mean

-2SD

**a** Regional myocardial perfusion

Myocardial perfusion by CMR (ml/min/g)

Myocardial perfusion by PET (ml/min/g)

$y = 0.87x + 0.26$   
 $r = 0.83$

**b** Regional myocardial perfusion

Difference between PET and CMR (ml/min/g)

Mean MP for PET and CMR (ml/min/g)

+2SD

Mean

-2SD

Engblom et al. J Cardiovasc Magn Reson 2017;19(1):78.  
doi: 10.1186/s12968-017-0388-9.

N=21 patients

40



Engblom et al. J  
Cardiovasc Magn  
Reson  
2017;19(1):78.  
doi:  
10.1186/s12968-  
017-0388-9.

# The Prognostic Significance of Quantitative Myocardial Perfusion

## An Artificial Intelligence–Based Approach Using Perfusion Mapping

**Editorial, see p 1292**

**BACKGROUND:** Myocardial perfusion reflects the macro- and microvascular coronary circulation. Recent quantitation developments using cardiovascular magnetic resonance perfusion permit automated measurement clinically. We explored the prognostic significance of stress myocardial blood flow (MBF) and myocardial perfusion reserve (MPR, the ratio of stress to rest MBF).

**METHODS:** A 2-center study of patients with both suspected and known coronary artery disease referred clinically for perfusion assessment. Image analysis was performed automatically using a novel artificial intelligence approach deriving global and regional stress and rest MBF and MPR. Cox proportional hazard models adjusting for comorbidities and cardiovascular magnetic resonance parameters sought associations of stress MBF and MPR with death and major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE), including myocardial infarction, stroke, heart failure hospitalization, late (>90 day) revascularization, and death.

**RESULTS:** A total of 1049 patients were included with a median follow-up of 605 (interquartile range, 464–814) days. There were 42 (4.0%) deaths and 188 MACE in 174 (16.6%) patients. Stress MBF and MPR were independently associated with both death and MACE. For each 1 mL·g<sup>-1</sup>·min<sup>-1</sup> decrease in stress MBF, the adjusted hazard ratios for death and MACE were 1.93 (95% CI, 1.08–3.48, *P*=0.028) and 2.14 (95% CI, 1.58–2.90, *P*<0.0001), respectively, even after adjusting for age and

Kristopher D. Knott, MBBS  
Andreas Seraphim, MBBS  
Joao B. Augusto, MD  
Hui Xue, PhD  
Liza Chacko, MBBS  
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Sven Plein, PhD  
Marianna Fontana, PhD  
Peter Kellman, PhD  
James C. Moon, MD

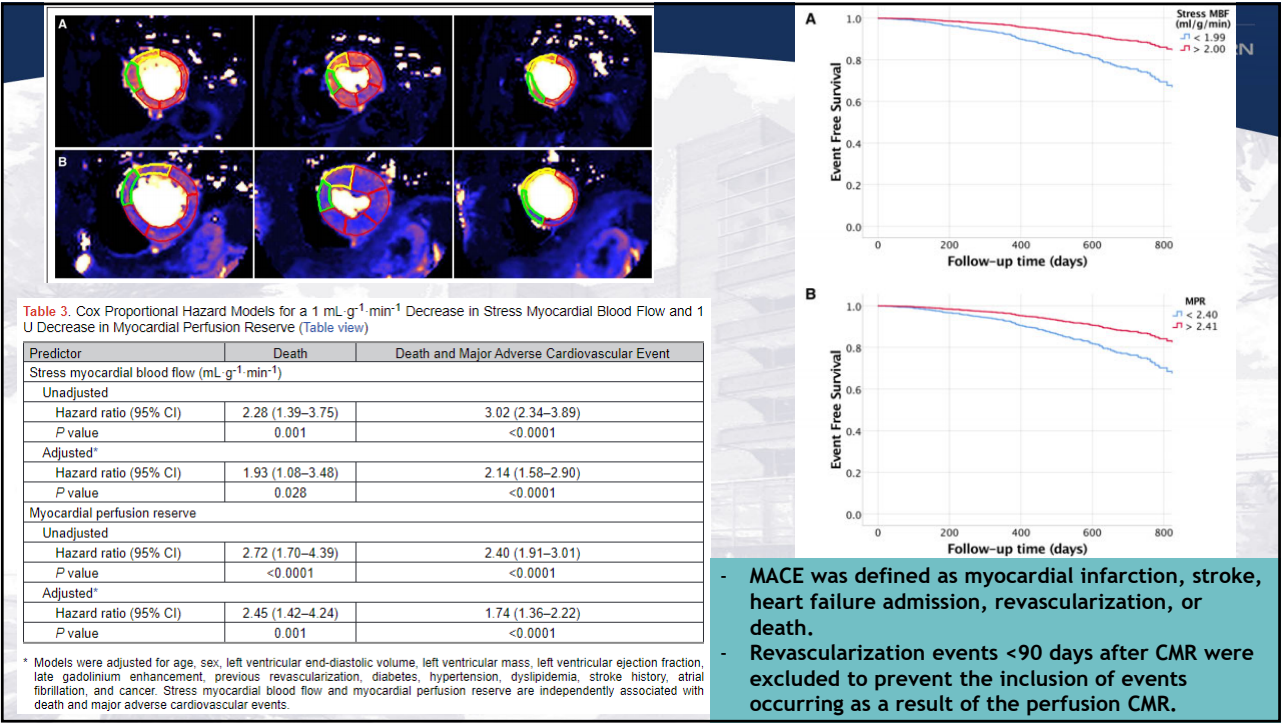
## Clinical Perspective

## What Is New?

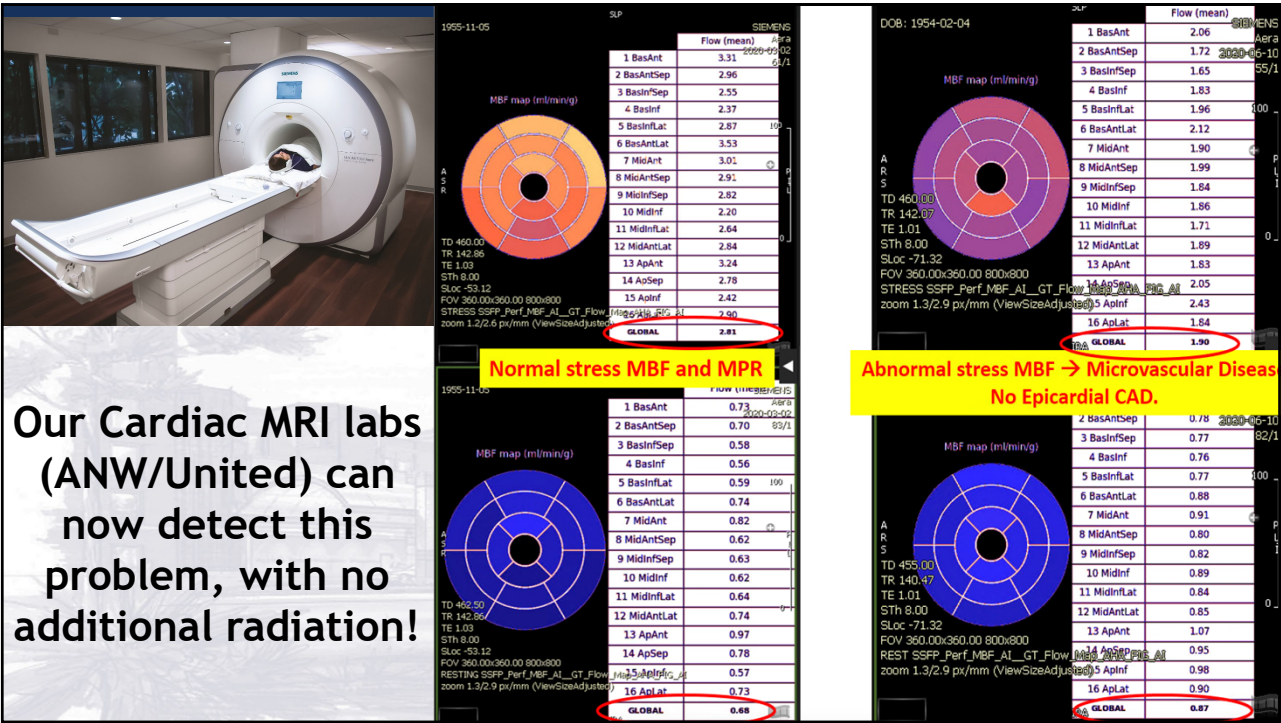
- Perfusion mapping uses artificial intelligence to provide instantaneous quantification of myocardial perfusion by cardiovascular magnetic resonance.
- Quantitative myocardial blood flow provides incremental prognostic information in patients with suspected coronary artery disease above traditional cardiovascular risk factors.
- Even in patients without regional perfusion defects, absolute perfusion is prognostic.

## What Are the Clinical Implications?

- Absolute perfusion quantification is a likely new biomarker in patient care.
  - As there is no user input and no ionizing radiation, early disease and microvascular disease can be studied at scale.
  - Impaired global perfusion may be a targetable cardiovascular risk factor.
- Automatically AI-derived MBF and MPR have prognostic relevance beyond the detection of regional ischemia.
  - Opportunity for quantitative perfusion analysis to be applied in the routine clinical setting to potentially risk stratify beyond the detection of regional ischemia alone.



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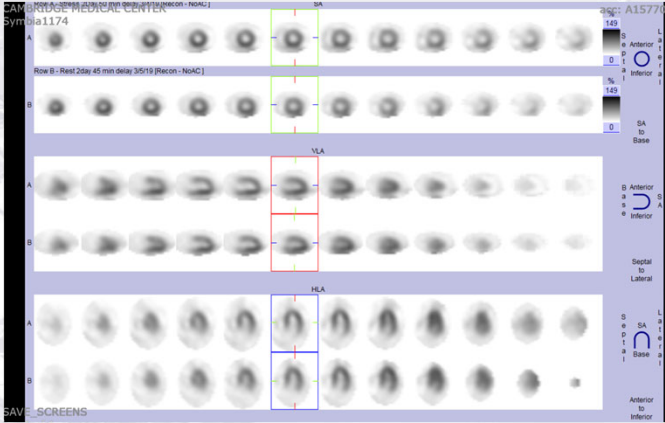


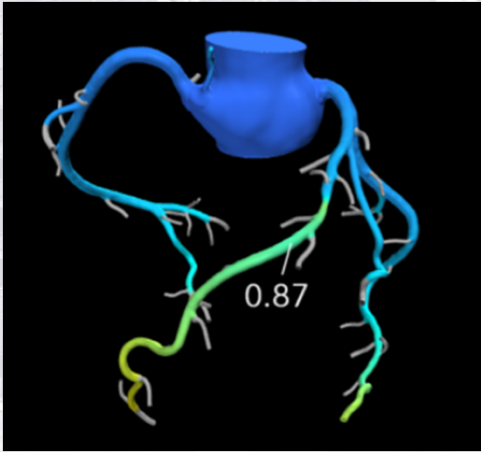
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# Clinical Case

- 75yo female with HTN, dyslipidemia, obesity (BMI=37), prior gastric bypass, CACS=187 AU, presenting with exertional dyspnea and vague retrosternal CP

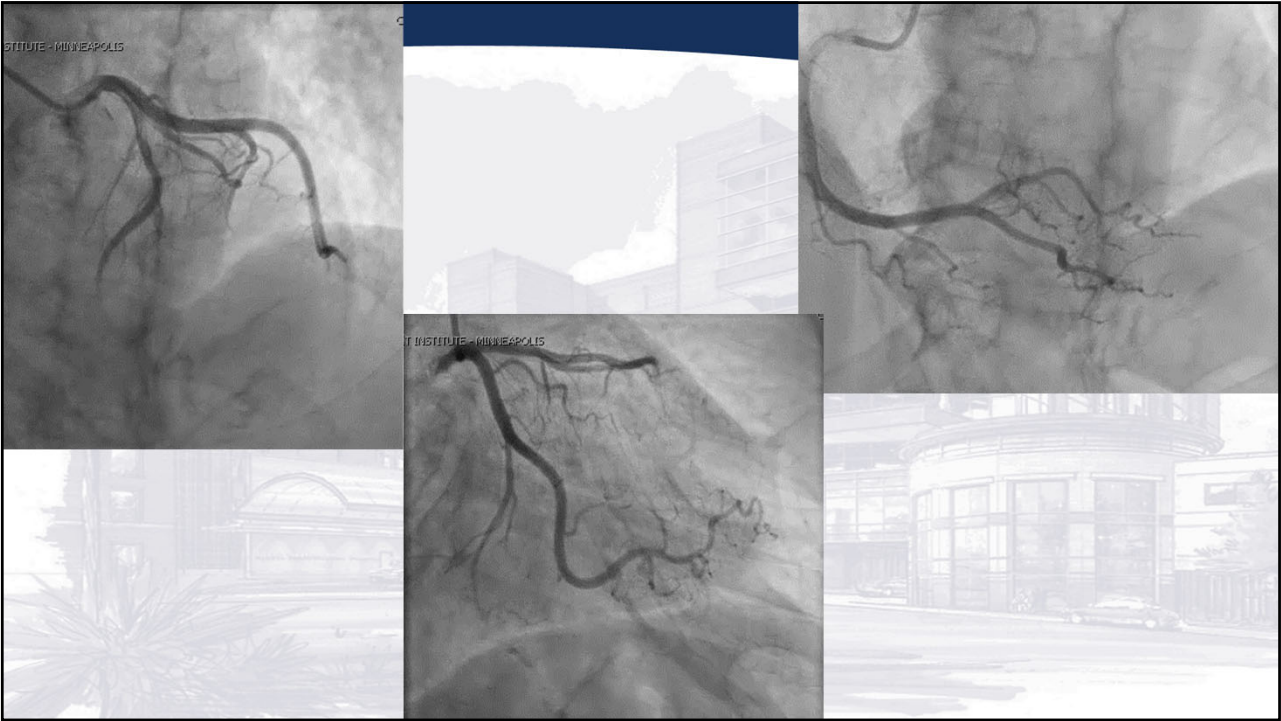




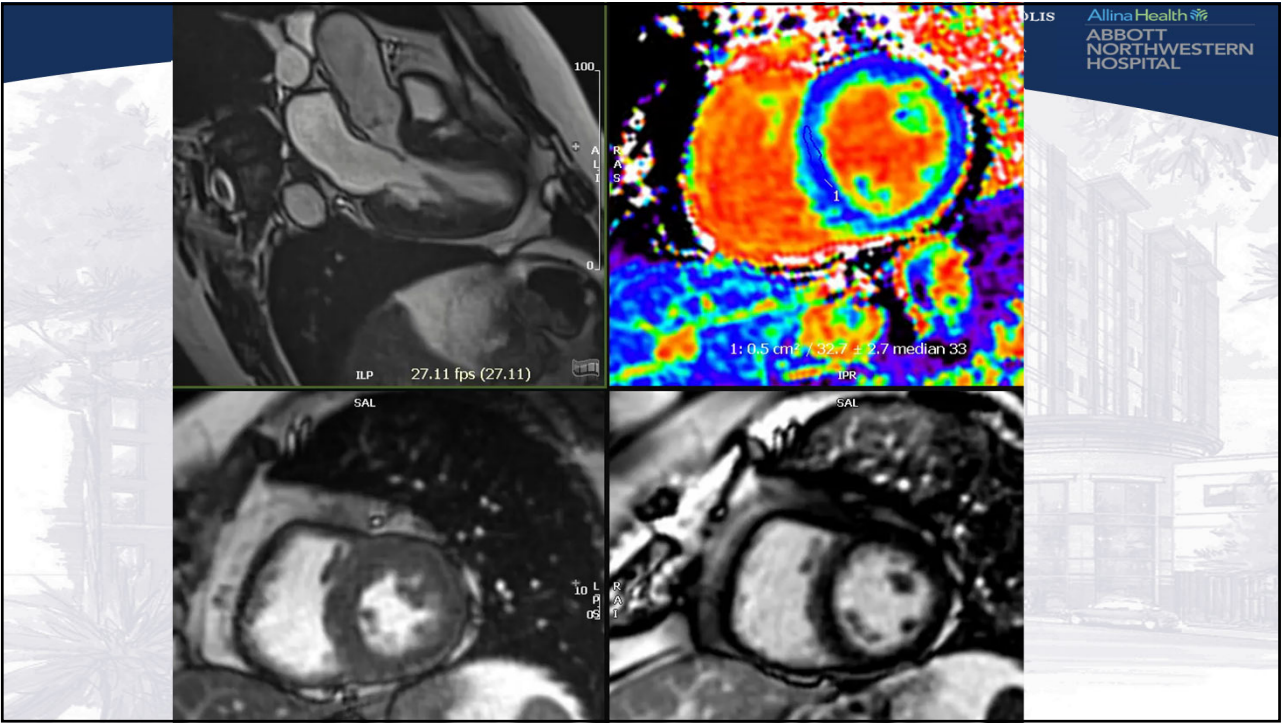
**SPECT IMPRESSION:**

- There is a small area of mild ischemia in the mid and apical anterior septum.
- Normal left ventricular ejection fraction of 65 percent.

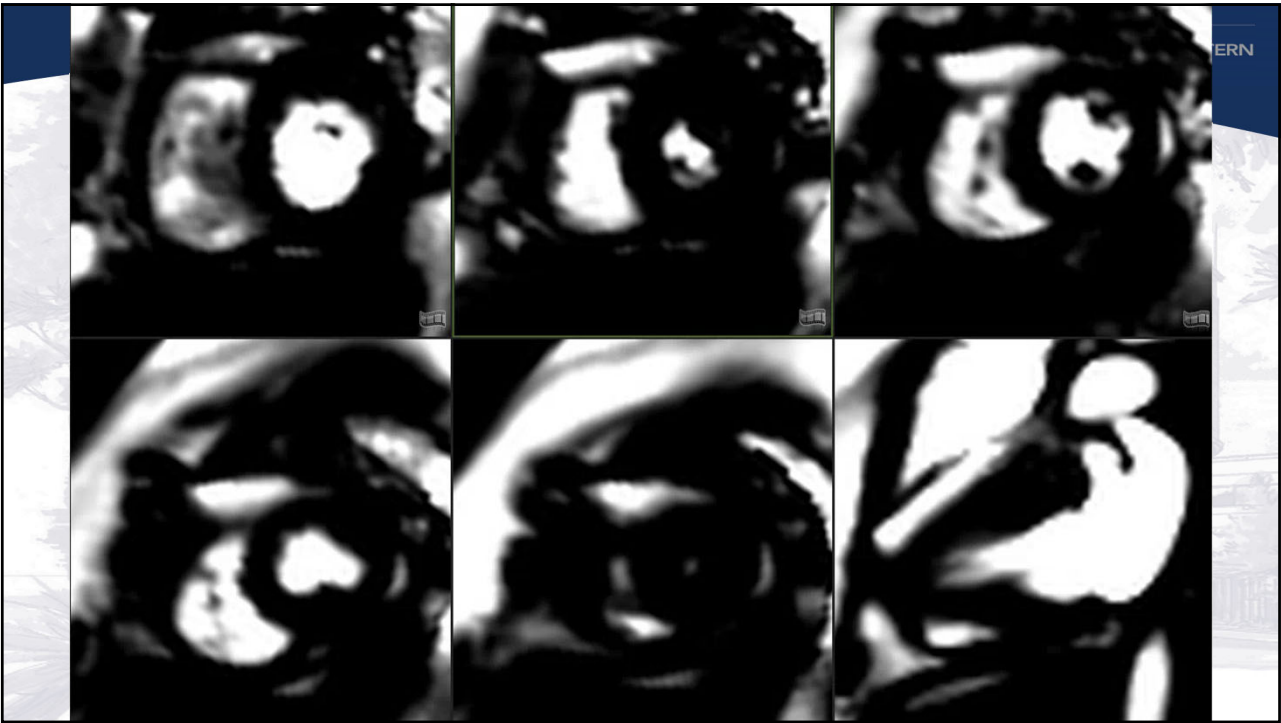
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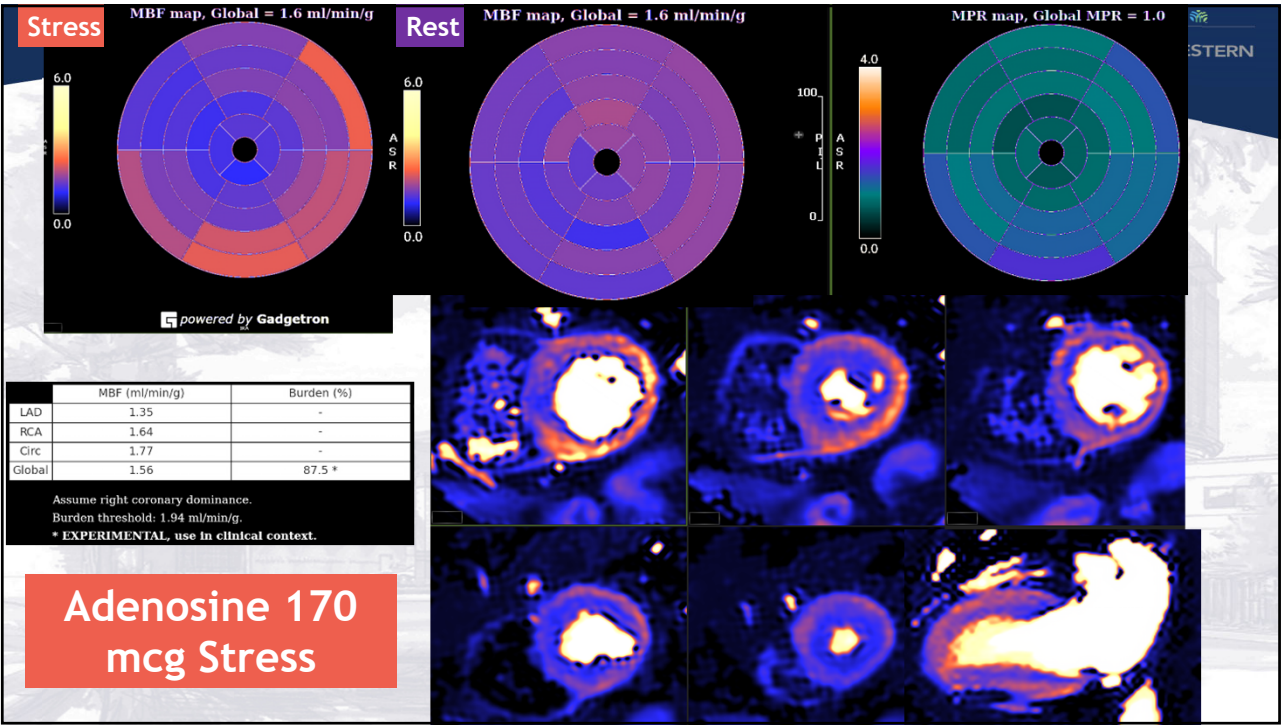


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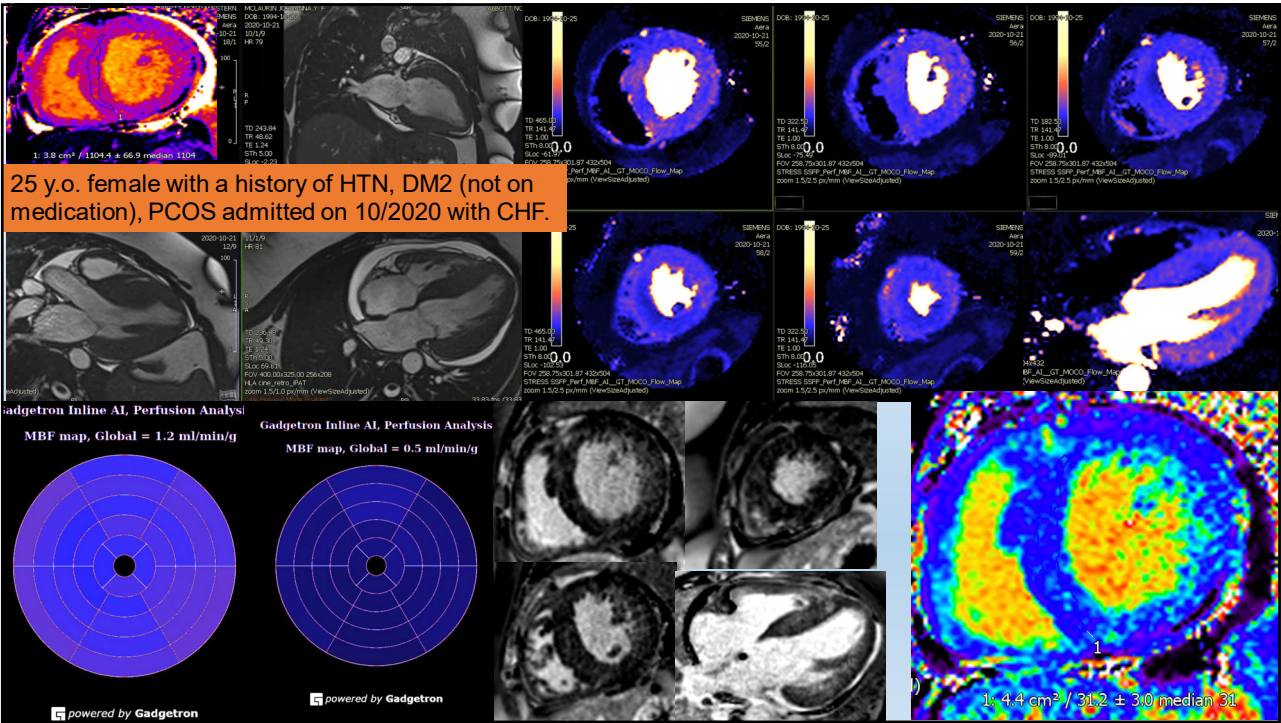


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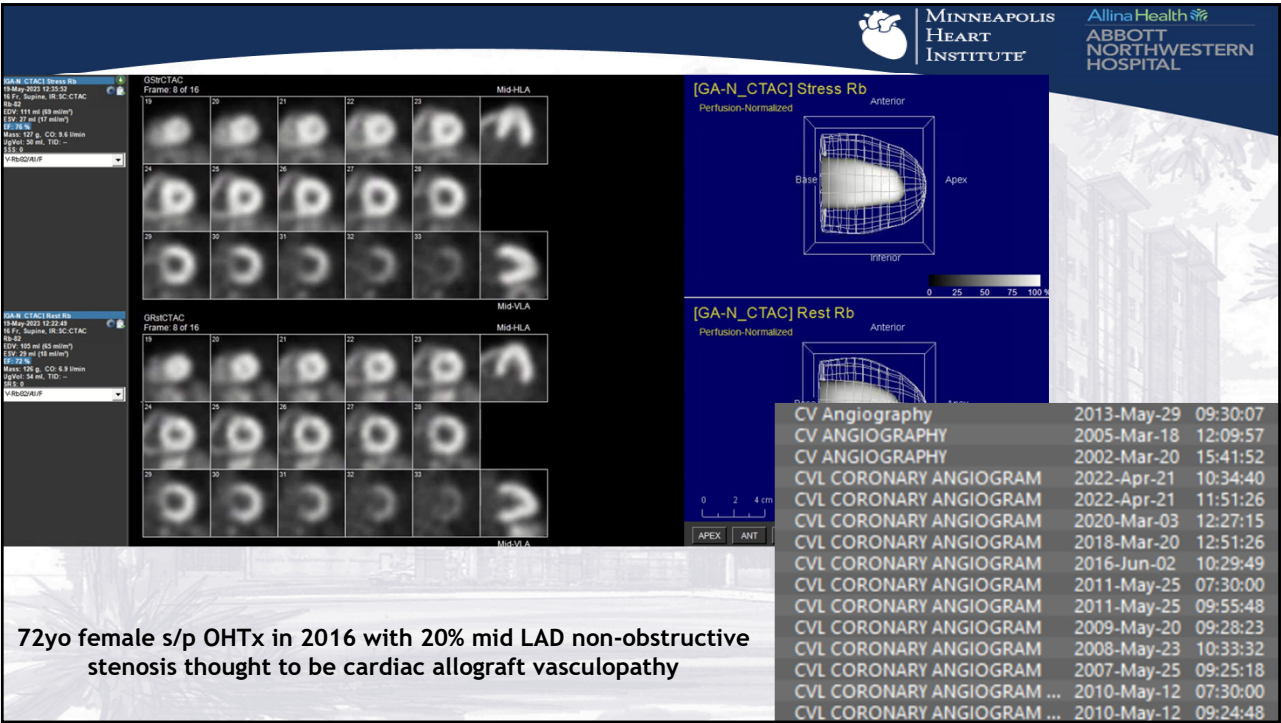
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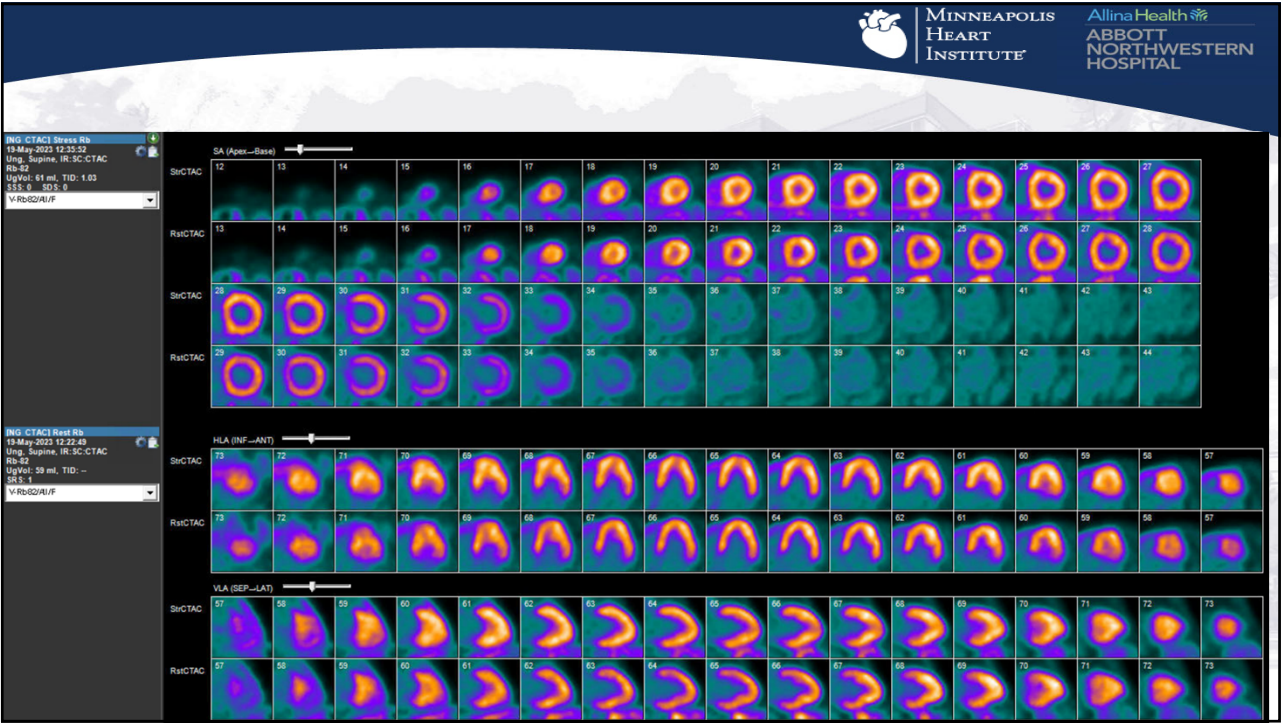


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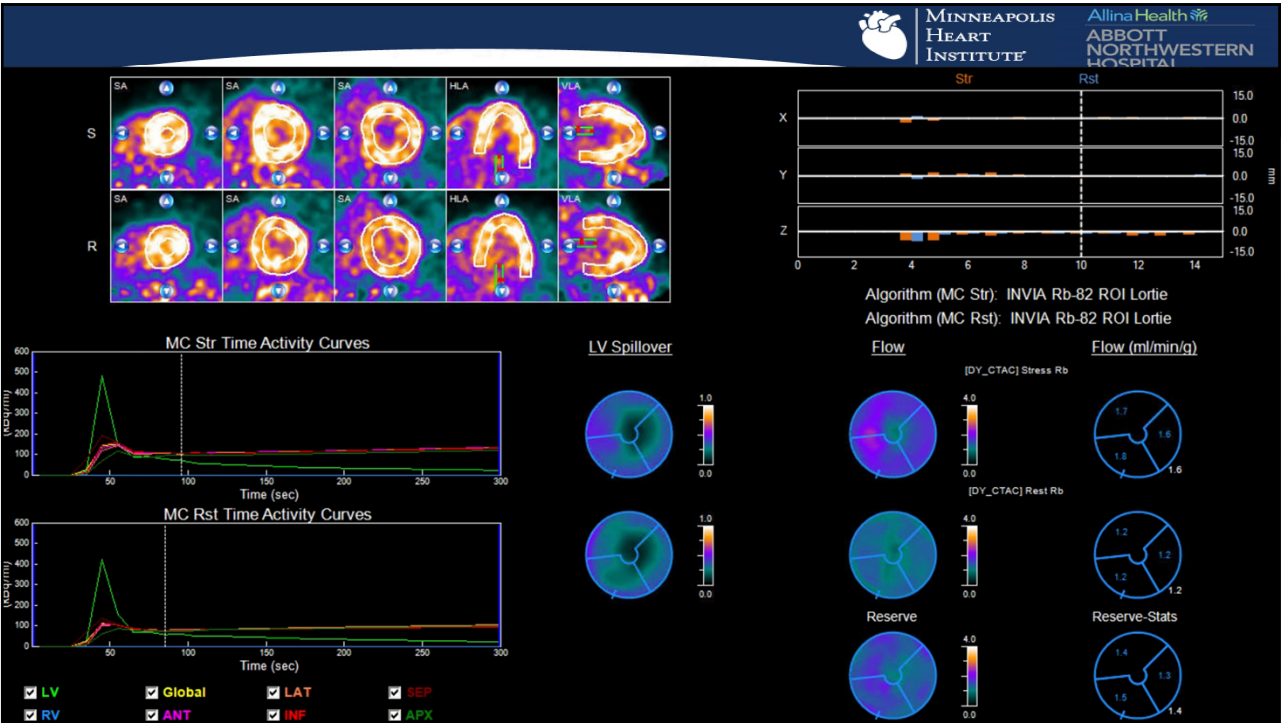


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VOL. 80, NO. 17, 2022

# Noninvasive Physiologic Assessment of Cardiac Allograft Vasculopathy Is Prognostic for Post-Transplant Events

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206 Consecutive patients

17 Excluded for high resting myocardial blood flow

189 Patients

5 Excluded for technical difficulty

184 Patients

3 Excluded due to repeat studies

Final Study Cohort: 181 Patients

Patients were classified into 2 groups according to the total MBFR:  $>2.0$  and  $\leq 2.0$ . An MBFR value of 2.0 was chosen as the cutoff based on the definition of microvascular dysfunction, prognostic value for stress PET and ROC (1.96).

Then classified into 3 CAV groups:  
**Epicardial CAV**  $\rightarrow$  + ischemia (SDS  $\geq 2$  or ISHLT CAV  $\geq 1$ , MBFR  $>2.0$ ; **Microvascular CAV**: MBFR  $\leq 2.0$  and no ischemia or epicardial CAV; and **Mixed CAV**

The study included all adult heart transplant recipients who underwent <sup>15</sup>N-ammonia positron emission tomography (PET) myocardial perfusion imaging from June 2016 through September 2017, targeting 5 years of follow-up. Patients were excluded for high resting myocardial blood flow, technical difficulties, or patients with repeat studies during the study period.

	All Patients (N = 181)	MBFR $>2.0$ (n = 110)	MBFR $\leq 2.0$ (n = 71)	P Value
Male	133 (73.5)	76 (69.1)	57 (80.3)	0.10
Age at PET scan, y	62.0 (49-68)	59 (47-67)	65 (56-69)	0.02
Age at transplant, y	54.4 (41-62)	51.5 (37-61)	56 (46-63)	0.06
Time since heart transplant, y	7 (4-11)	7.0 (4.0-10.0)	9.0 (5.0-12.0)	0.11
Donor age, y		29 (21-44)	34 (25-48.5)	0.07
Ethnicity				0.49
White	102 (56.4)	59 (53.6)	43 (60.5)	
Black	38 (21.0)	25 (22.7)	13 (18.3)	
Hispanic	31 (17.1)	18 (16.4)	13 (18.3)	
Other	10 (5.5)	8 (7.3)	2 (2.8)	
HF etiology				0.02
Ischemic	41 (22.6)	18 (16.4)	23 (32.4)	
Nonischemic	122 (67.4)	84 (76.4)	38 (53.5)	
Restrictive/infiltrative	4 (2.2)	2 (1.8)	2 (2.8)	
Retransplant	7 (3.9)	2 (1.8)	5 (7.1)	
Congenital	7 (3.9)	4 (3.6)	3 (4.2)	
Immunosuppression				0.66
CNI	177 (97.8)	108 (98.2)	69 (97.2)	
Tacrolimus	132 (72.9)	86 (78.2)	46 (64.8)	
Cyclosporine	55 (30.4)	22 (20.0)	23 (32.4)	
Proliferation signal inhibitor	48 (26.5)	31 (28.2)	17 (24.3)	0.47
Everolimus	36 (19.9)	25 (22.7)	11 (15.7)	
Sirolimus	12 (6.6)	6 (5.5)	6 (8.6)	
Antimetabolite	112 (61.9)	66 (60.0)	46 (64.8)	0.43
Mycophenolate mofetil	108 (59.7)	63 (57.3)	45 (63.4)	
Azathioprine	4 (2.2)	3 (2.7)	1 (1.4)	
Medication				0.92
ACE inhibitor/ARB/ARNI	62 (34.3)	38 (34.6)	24 (33.8)	
Calcium-channel blocker	72 (40.0)	40 (36.4)	32 (45.1)	0.24
Statin	156 (86.2)	96 (87.3)	60 (84.5)	0.60
Other lipid-lowering agent	42 (23.8)	29 (26.4)	14 (19.7)	0.10
Aspirin	164 (90.6)	105 (95.5)	59 (83.1)	0.005
BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup>	26.7 (23.7-29.2)	26.6 (23.7-28.8)	26.7 (24.0-30.8)	0.42
HTN	127 (70.2)	76 (69.1)	51 (71.8)	0.69
Tobacco use pretransplant	48 (26.5)	29 (26.1)	19 (26.7)	0.04
Insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus	50 (27.6)	20 (18.2)	30 (42.3)	0.0004
Diabetes mellitus	65 (35.9)	31 (28.2)	34 (47.9)	0.007

55

	All Patients (N = 181)	MBFR $>2.0$ (n = 110)	MBFR $\leq 2.0$ (n = 71)	P Value
Prior stroke	8 (4.4)	2 (1.8)	6 (8.5)	0.03
CKD				0.0002
GFR $>60$ mL/min	51 (28.2)	39 (35.5)	12 (16.9)	
GFR 30-60 mL/min	85 (47.0)	56 (50.9)	29 (40.9)	
GFR $<30$ mL/min	33 (18.2)	12 (10.9)	21 (29.5)	
ESRD	12 (6.6)	3 (2.7)	9 (12.7)	
LDL, mg/dL	84.4 $\pm$ 24.4	85.4 $\pm$ 23.7	82.8 $\pm$ 25.6	0.39
Prior ACR	54 (29.8)	26 (23.6)	28 (39.4)	0.02
Prior ACR $\geq 2R$	23 (12.7)	11 (10.0)	12 (16.9)	0.17
Time since ACR	8.2 (2.7-12.2)	6.6 (2.4-9.5)	9.3 (3.3-15.2)	0.05
Prior AMR	14 (7.7)	4 (3.6)	10 (14.1)	0.01
Time since AMR	3.1 (2.5-4.5)	4.0 (3.1-7.7)	2.8 (2.1-3.7)	0.12
Post-transplant DSA	56 (30.9)	30 (27.3)	26 (36.6)	0.19

### CENTRAL ILLUSTRATION 5-Year Outcomes According to Myocardial Blood Flow Reserve

**Cardiac Allograft Vasculopathy**

	MBFR $\leq 2.0$	MBFR $>2.0$	HR
5-Year Death or Retransplant	41.9%	8.1%	$\uparrow$ 7.1
5-Year CV Death or Retransplant	17.2%	2.6%	$\uparrow$ 12.0
5-Year CV Hospitalization	31.5%	3.9%	$\uparrow$ 10.1

Clerkin KJ, et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2022;80(17):1617-1628.

Patients with a myocardial blood flow reserve (MBFR)  $\leq 2.0$  have a 7-fold increased 5-year risk of death or retransplantation, 12-fold increased risk of cardiovascular (CV) death or retransplantation, and 10-fold increased risk of CV hospitalization.

	MBFR $>2.0$	MBFR $\leq 2.0$	P Value
Stress agent			0.21
Adenosine	3 (2.8)	2 (2.8)	
Dipyridamole	105 (97.2)	67 (94.4)	
Regadenoson	0 (0.0)	2 (2.8)	
Myocardial blood flow			
Total stress myocardial blood flow	2.32 (2.03-2.62)	1.47 (1.22-1.69)	$<0.0001$
Total rest myocardial blood flow	0.94 (0.85-1.03)	0.90 (0.82-1.0)	0.08
Total myocardial blood flow reserve	2.60 (2.20-3.0)	1.63 (1.35-1.80)	$<0.0001$
Resting ejection fraction, %	60.1 $\pm$ 7.4	57.3 $\pm$ 10.4	0.06
Stress ejection fraction, %	63.0 $\pm$ 7.0	59.4 $\pm$ 10.6	0.03
Any ischemia	6 (5.5)	12 (16.9)	0.02
$<5\%$ of myocardium	4 (3.6)	2 (2.8)	
5%-10% of myocardium	1 (0.9)	5 (7.0)	
$>10\%$ of myocardium	1 (0.9)	5 (7.0)	
Transient ischemic dilation	0 (0.0)	1 (1.4)	0.21
Coronary calcium			0.01
No coronary calcium	85 (80.2)	40 (56.3)	
Any coronary calcium	21 (19.8)	24 (33.5)	
VECAC			0.11
0	85 (80.2)	40 (56.3)	
1-99	5 (4.7)	8 (11.2)	
10-99	7 (6.6)	7 (9.9)	
100-399	7 (6.6)	6 (8.4)	
400-999	2 (1.9)	3 (4.2)	

**Death or Retransplantation**

**Survival Probability**

Time Post-PET Scan (Days)	1: Epicardial CAV	2: Microvascular CAV	3: Mixed CAV	4: Normal
41	41	40	40	40
29	28	27	22	18
30	39	35	32	26
69	69	66	66	62

56

57

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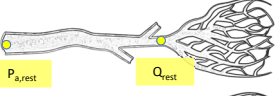
4

What did we study?

• Microvascular resistance reserve (MRR) (De Bruyne, Pijls et al. 2021) is the ratio of **true** resting microvascular resistance to hyperemic microvascular resistance:

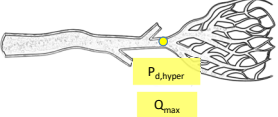
$$MRR = \frac{R_{\mu,rest}}{R_{\mu,hyper}} = \frac{Q_{max}}{Q_{rest}} \cdot \frac{P_{a,rest}}{P_{d,hyper}}$$

Rest



$$R_{\mu,rest} = \frac{P_{a,rest}}{Q_{rest}}$$

Hyperemia



$$R_{\mu,hyper} = \frac{P_{d,hyper}}{Q_{max}}$$

• MRR is a reflection of **disease only in the microcirculation**, even in the presence of epicardial disease

• MRR in the "normal" group was 3.4 compared with a mean MRR of 1.9 in the "abnormal" group.

• MRR >2.7 ruled out coronary microvascular dysfunction (CMD) with a certainty of 96%, whereas MRR <2.1 indicated the presence of CMD with a similar high certainty of 96%.

Main Results

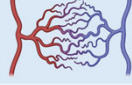
In 214 ANOCA patients, with 96% certainty:

MRR <2.1 indicates CMD

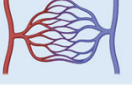
MRR >2.7 rules out CMD

Abnormal ← 2.1

2.7 → Normal




MRR



de Vos A, et al. Microvascular Resistance Reserve to Assess Microvascular Dysfunction in ANOCA Patients. J Am Coll Cardiol Interv. 2023

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EuroPCR.com



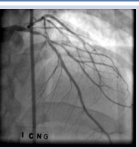
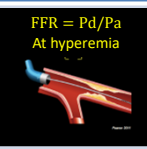

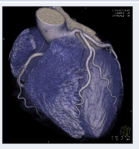
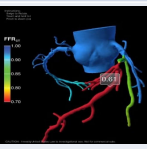

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What did we study?

• The CCTA+FFR<sub>CT</sub> pathway enables **non-invasive** evaluation of **epicardial disease**


• We propose a **non-invasively computed MRR (MRR<sub>CT</sub>)** using a **model built from CCTA** imaging, and **using total LV flow at rest and stress** from [<sup>15</sup>O]H<sub>2</sub>O-PET MPI

• As a proof-of-principle, we **evaluated MRR<sub>CT</sub> and FFR<sub>CT</sub>** in different patient groups

	Anatomy	Epicardial function	Microvascular function
Invasive		<div>FFR = Pd/Pa At hyperemia</div> 	<div><math display="block">MRR = \frac{R_{\mu,rest}}{R_{\mu,hyper}}</math></div> 
Non-invasive			

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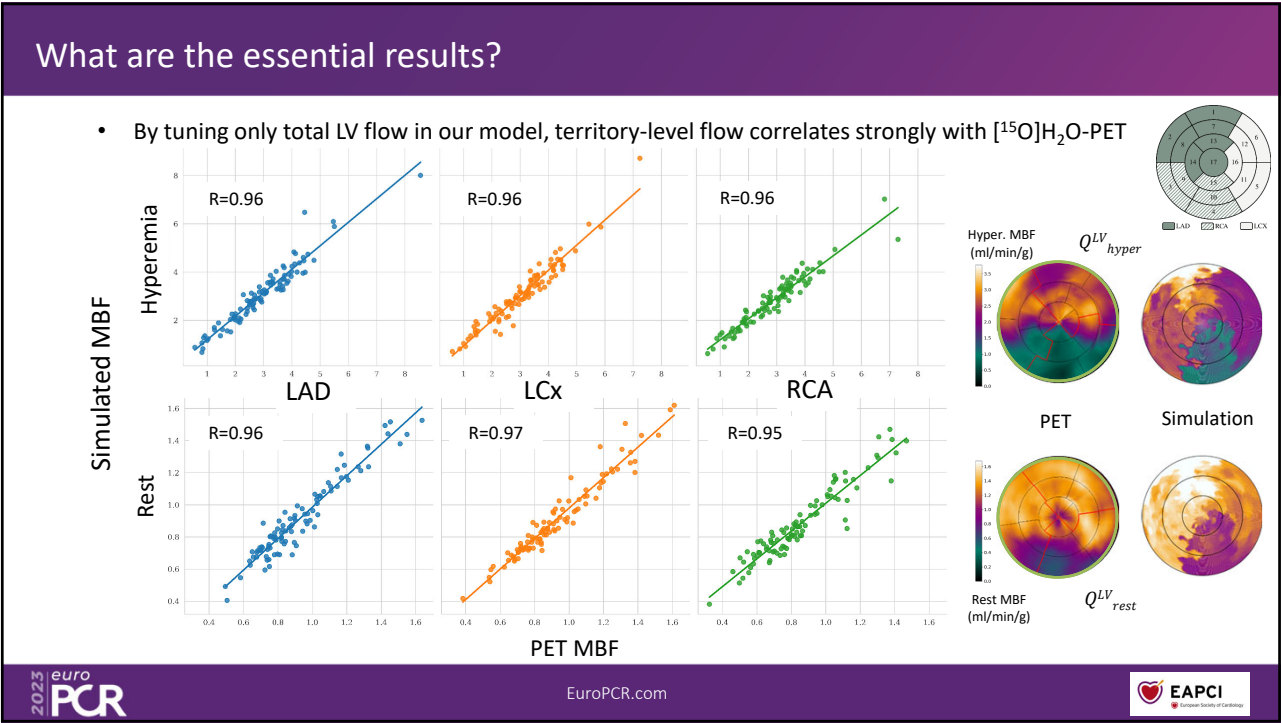


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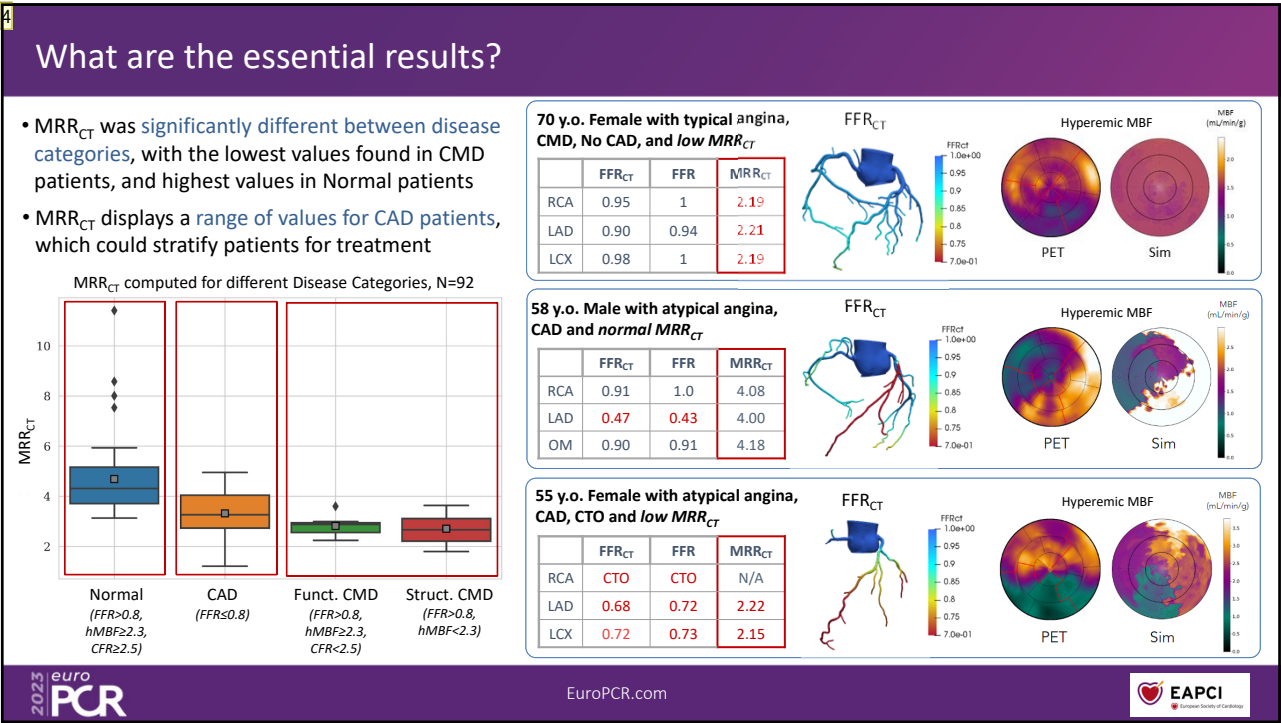
30 of 53

- 0 Add animations  
 , 2023-04-04T20:58:34.106
- 1 Explain the importance of MRR, and why evaluating microvascular resistance is important  
 , 2023-04-04T21:05:42.753
- 2 Replace text with illustrations ideally, and explain clinical relevance  
 , 2023-04-04T21:06:25.947
- 3 Explain how MRR-CT and FFR-CT allows us to evaluate epicardial and microvascular disease non-invasively  
 , 2023-04-04T21:14:58.734
- 4 Add table showing how certain metrics would typically require invasive measurements (FFR for epicardial, MRR for microvascular evaluation), with a new row showing how we can do this non-invasively  
 , 2023-04-04T21:17:53.582





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- 0** Animate cases to appear 1 at a time  
, 2023-04-04T21:00:24.240
- 1** Point out that predicted MBF distribution of simulated polarmaps match well with the PET imaging, where we can see clearly the local perfusion deficits  
, 2023-04-04T21:01:19.989
- 2** Patient 1: mention patient conditions, highlighting normal epicardial vessels  
, 2023-04-04T21:02:09.487
- 3** Add any additional clinical context for the patient in a pop-up box in the purple section at the bottom  
, 2023-04-04T21:02:36.312
- 4** Update MRR -> MRRct in plot (bottom left)  
, 2023-05-12T17:17:37.034

## The essentials to remember

CCTA-derived Microvascular Resistance Reserve ( $MRR_{CT}$ ) enables non-invasive evaluation of coronary microvascular function


- **Why?** MRR overcomes issues with CFR and IMR for evaluating CMD, but is invasive
- **What?**  $MRR_{CT}$  is a **non-invasive MRR assessment** as derived from CCTA and PET MPI
- **How?**  $MRR_{CT}$  uses **geometry from CCTA**, total LV rest and stress **flow from MPI**, and is computed at measurement sites from the resulting simulated pressure and flow
- **Results?**  $MRR_{CT}$  **distinguishes Normal subjects from CMD patients**, and **stratifies CAD patients** into those with normal vs abnormal microvascular function
- **Why is this important?**  $MRR_{CT}$  is the first **non-invasive and specific** approach to CMD

## Closing Thoughts


- CMD is common (25-40%) of patients without obstructive CAD and symptoms. Female:male ratio (3:1). Comorbidities increase the risk.
- Stress Cardiac PET has been validated decades ago and accurate detection of CMD. Quantification with stress MBF and CFR (MPR) are reimbursable and available. Importantly, strongly linked with comorbidities and outcomes.
- Stress Cardiac MRI with now in-line automated quantitative perfusion - akin to stress PET - is available on both campuses and opens the possibility to provide objective assessment of CMD.
- Several new developments in imaging will continue to add value to this complex field and ultimately benefiting patients by providing an answer and tailored targeted medications.







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Creating a world without heart and vascular disease

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- Victor Cheng
- Nadira Hamid
- Thomas Knickelbine
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- Michael Miedema
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- Vinnie Bapat
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**Thank you!**


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MHIF Grand Rounds – Monday May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023


**Diagnostic evaluation of microvascular dysfunction and coronary spasm in the cardiac catheterization laboratory**




**Yader Sandoval, MD, FACC, FSCAI**  
Interventional Section, Minneapolis Heart Institute, Abbott Northwestern Hospital  
Center for Coronary Artery Disease, Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation, Minneapolis, MN.  
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DISCLOSURES

- Abbott Diagnostics (advisory board), Roche Diagnostics (advisory board, speaker), Zoll (advisory board), Phillips (advisory board), Patent #20210401347 (machine learning models for ECG-based troponin level detection)

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Nomenclature: INOCA and MINOCA

The diagram illustrates the classification of Ischaemic Heart Disease. At the top is 'Ischaemic Heart Disease', which branches into 'Stable Coronary Syndrome' and 'Acute Coronary Syndrome'. 'Stable Coronary Syndrome' further branches into 'Obstructive CAD' and 'INOCA'. 'Acute Coronary Syndrome' branches into 'UA / NSTEMI' and 'STEMI'. 'INOCA' and 'MINOCA' are highlighted with red circles, and they are positioned between 'Obstructive CAD' and 'UA / NSTEMI', suggesting a relationship or overlap between these categories.

Ford TJ, Corcoran D, Berry C. Stable coronary syndromes: pathophysiology, diagnostic advances and therapeutic need. Heart. 2018 Feb;104(4):284-292.

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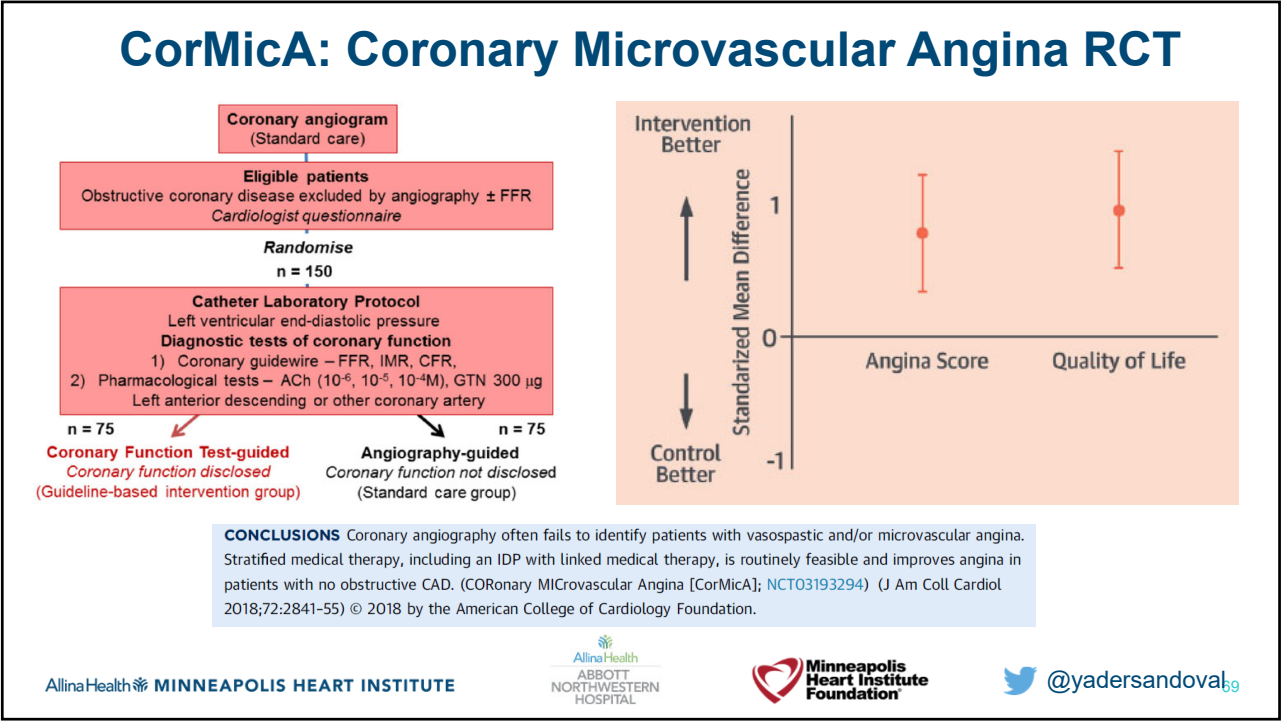
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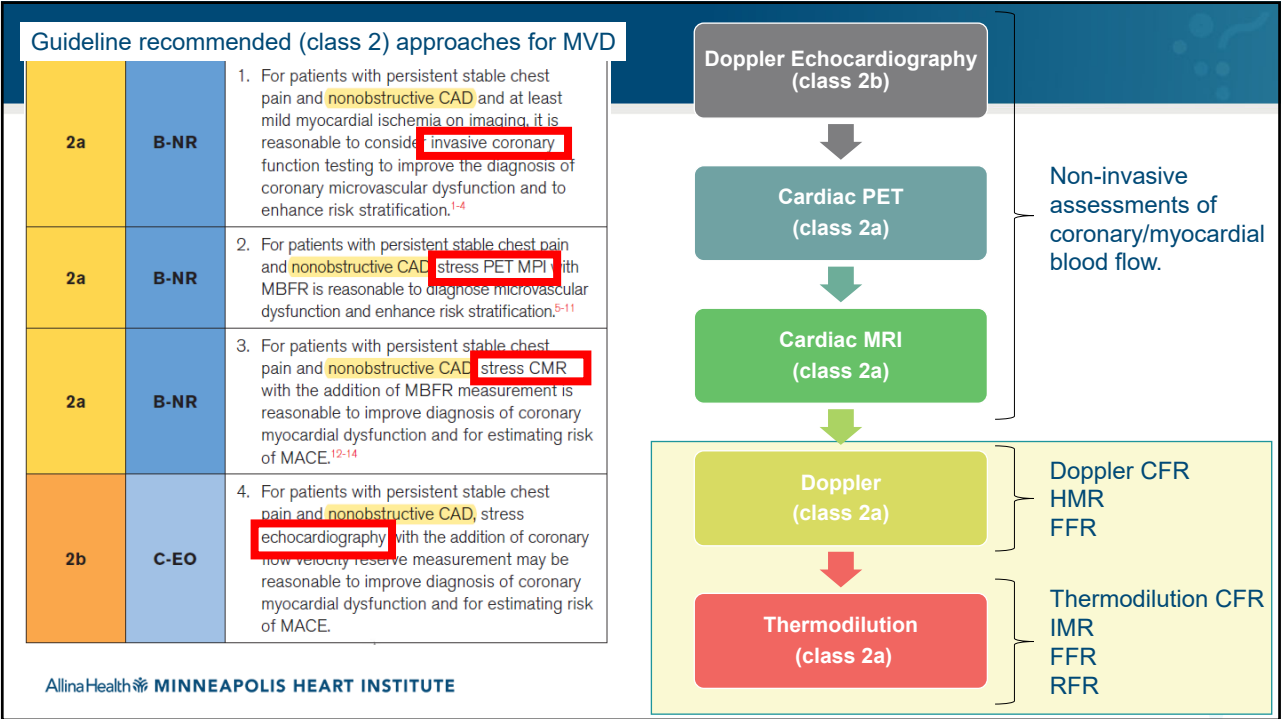
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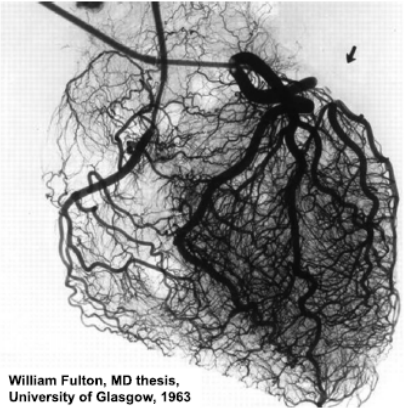


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## Coronary angiography and microvasculature

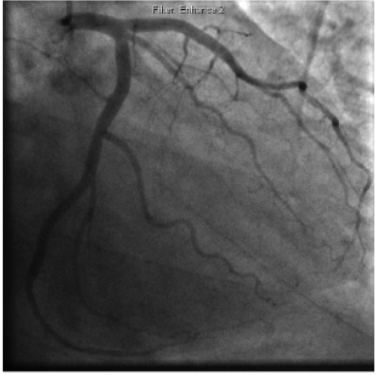
30  $\mu$ m



William Fulton, MD thesis, University of Glasgow, 1963

Imaging resolution

300  $\mu$ m +



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## Modified clinical classification of CMD

CMVD	Definition
Type 1	Primary, i.e. in the absence of structural heart disease
Type 2	In the presence of cardiomyopathies such as LVH, HCM, DCM, amyloidosis.
Type 3	In the presence of obstructive CAD (including ACS)
Type 4	After coronary interventions
Type 5	After cardiac transplantation

Modifiers	
Duration	Acute or chronic
Symptoms	Asymptomatic or symptomatic
Therapy	None, minimal, moderate, or maximal level

Herrmann J, Kaski JC, Lerman A. Coronary microvascular dysfunction in the clinical setting: from mystery to reality. Eur Heart J 2012; 33: 2771-2781.

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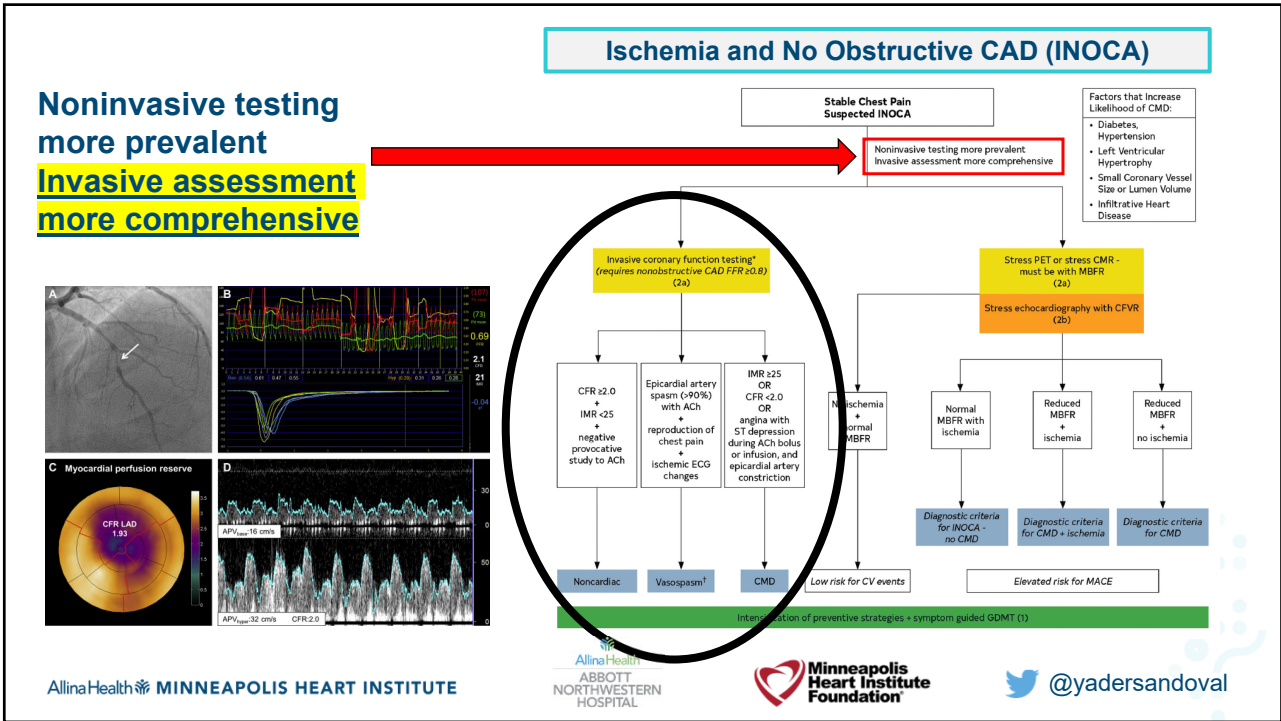
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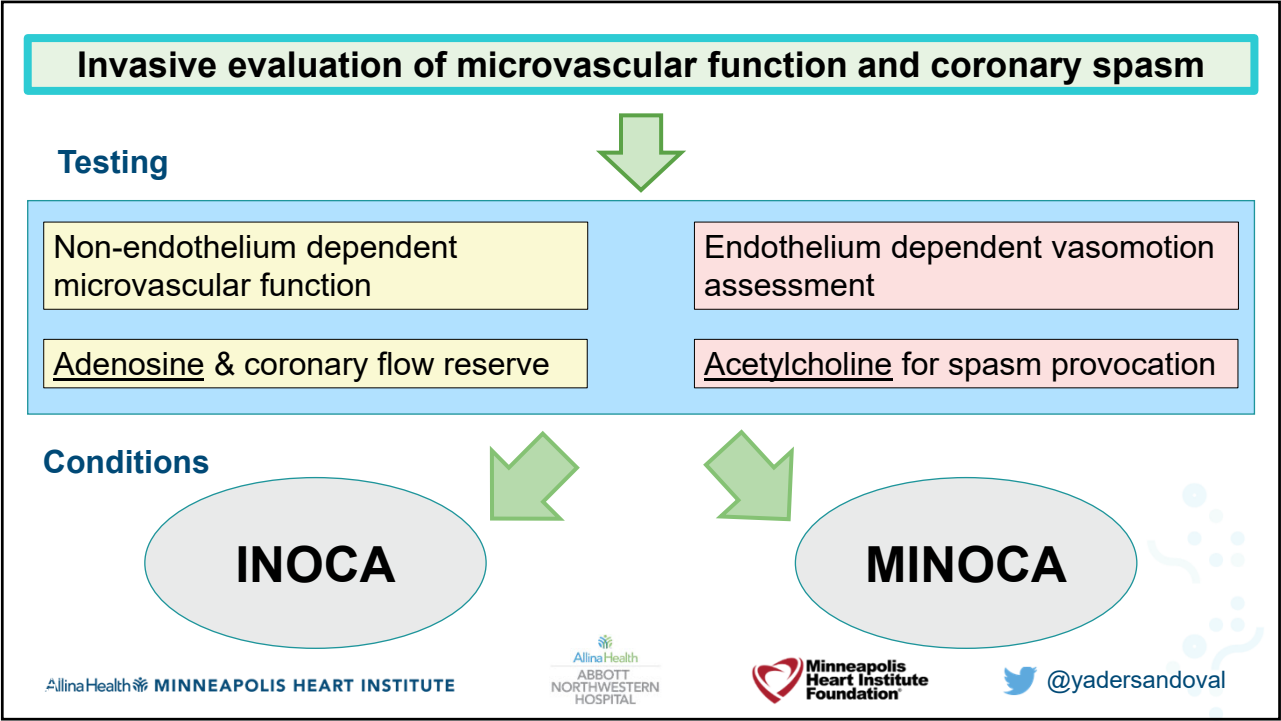
72

# Invasive evaluation of microvascular dysfunction

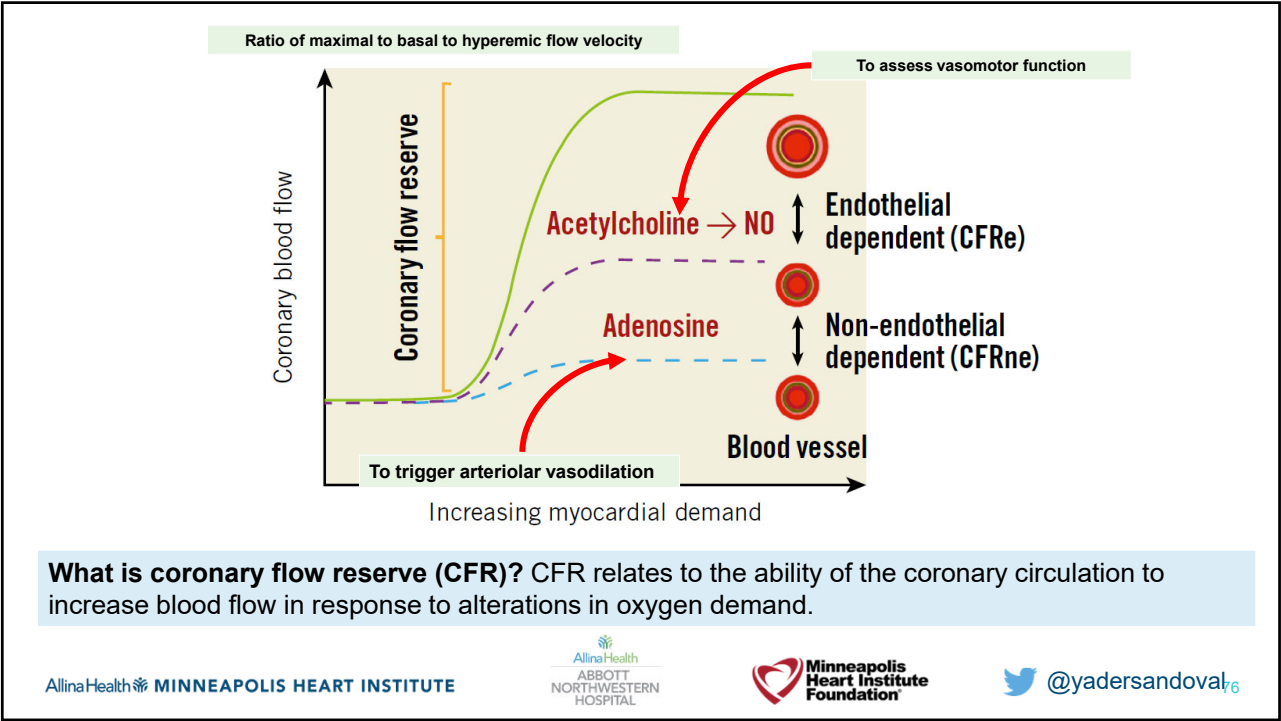
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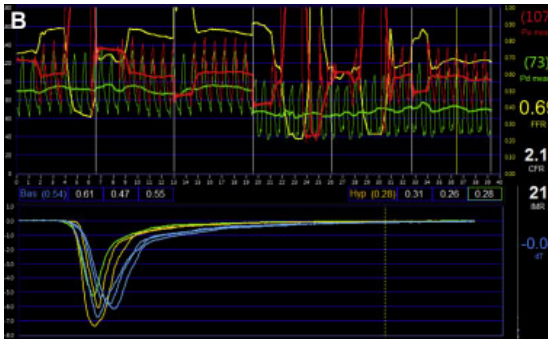
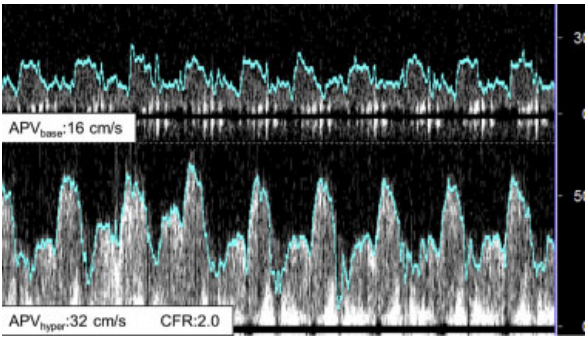


Available methods for invasive microvascular evaluations



Doppler

Thermodilution





Everaars et al. Doppler flow velocity and thermodilution to assess coronary flow reserve: a head-to-head comparison with [<sup>15</sup>O]H<sub>2</sub>O PET. JACC Interv 2018; 11: 2044-2054.

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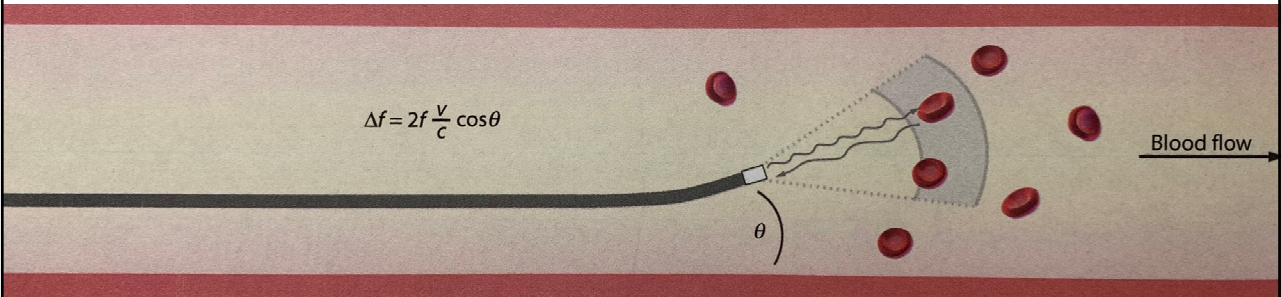
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Doppler Flow Velocity




- Flow velocity is extracted from these data by detecting the instantaneous peak velocity, which represents the maximum velocity within the sample volume.
- The average of instantaneous peak velocity over one or multiple heartbeats is termed **average peak velocity (APV)**.


Escaned & Davies. Physiological assessment of coronary stenoses and the microcirculation.

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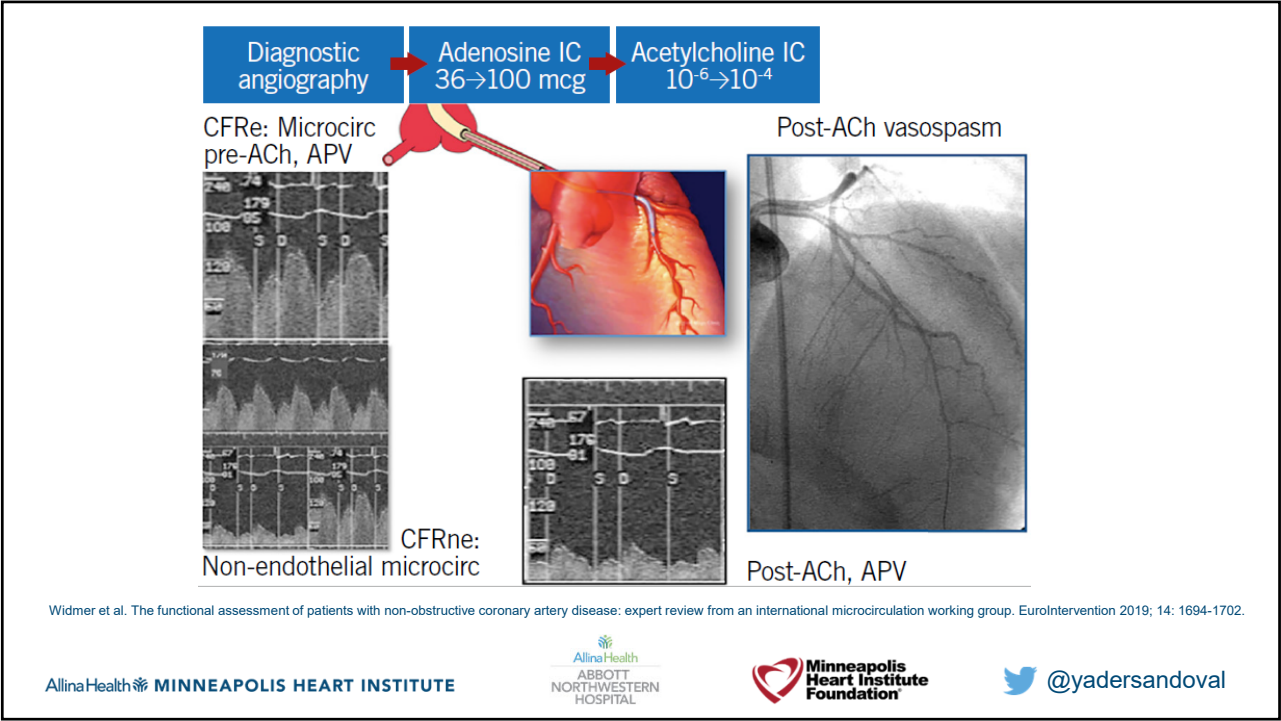
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Normal diagnostic parameters: Doppler-based approach			
	Non-endothelium dependent function (CFRne)	Epicardial endothelial function	Microcirculatory endothelial function (CFRe)
Adenosine (microcirculation)	% Δ in ratio of hyperaemic to rest APV (i.e., CFR) >2.5	-	-
Acetylcholine (epicardial and microcirculation)	-	% Δ in coronary artery diameter >20%	% Δ in CBF >50%
NTG (epicardial)	% Δ in coronary artery diameter QCA >20%	-	-

Coronary blood flow (CBF) = 0.5 x velocity x area  
Coronary blood flow (CBF) = 0.5 × APV × (radius<sup>2</sup>×π)

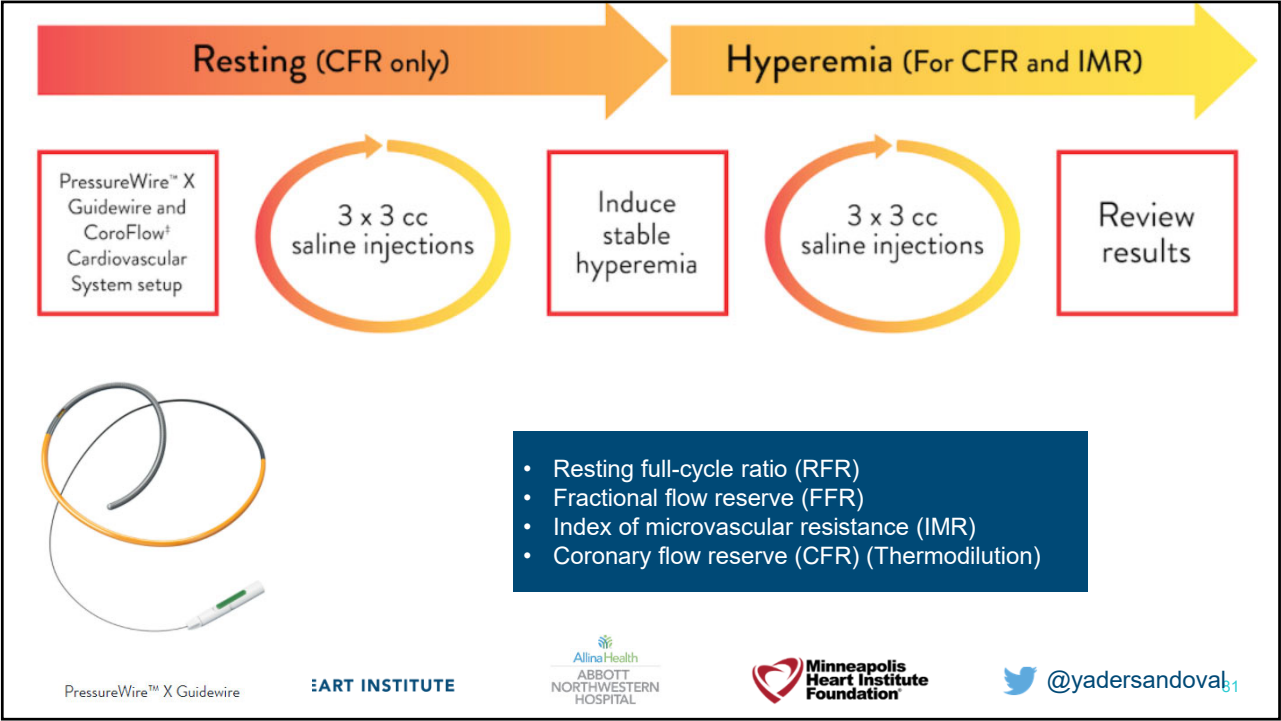
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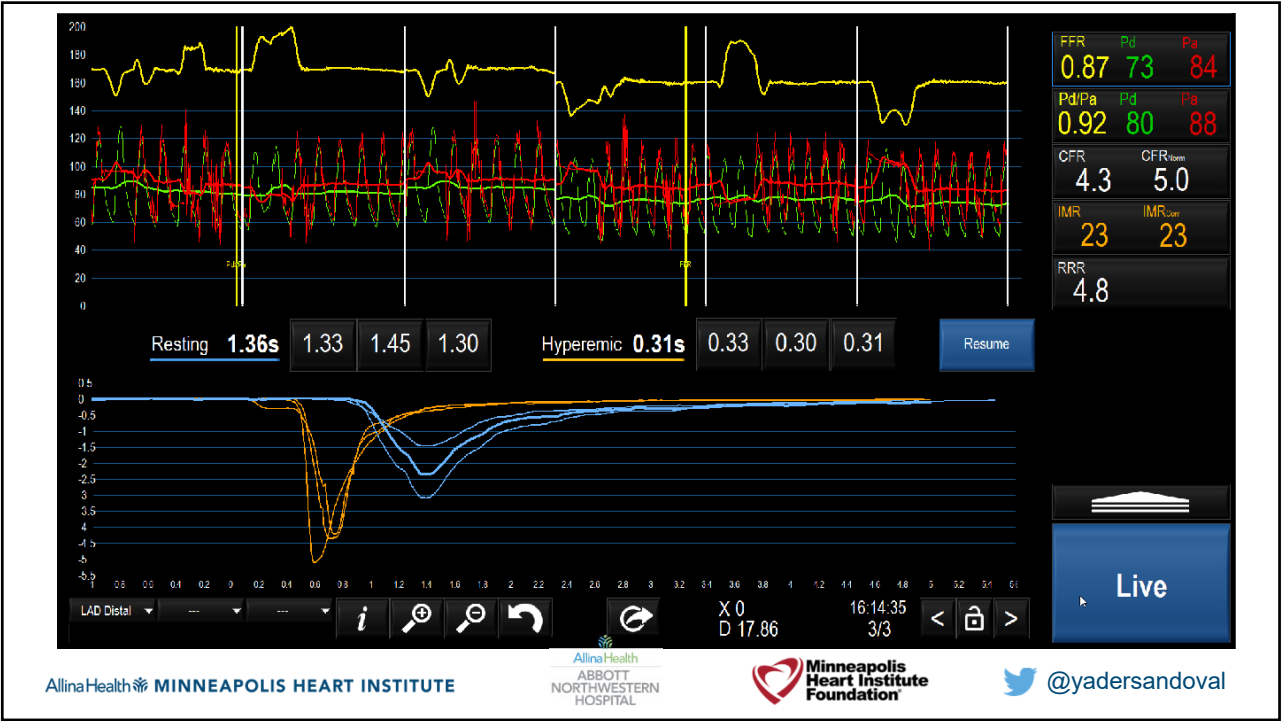
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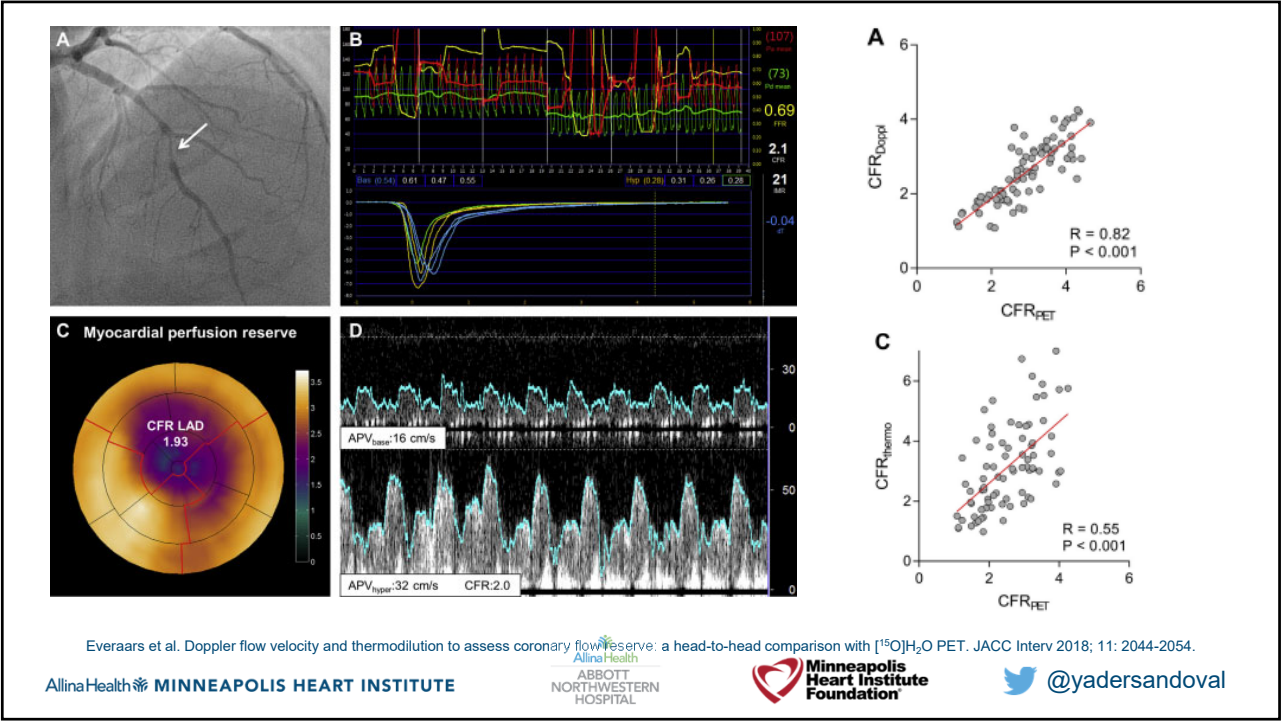


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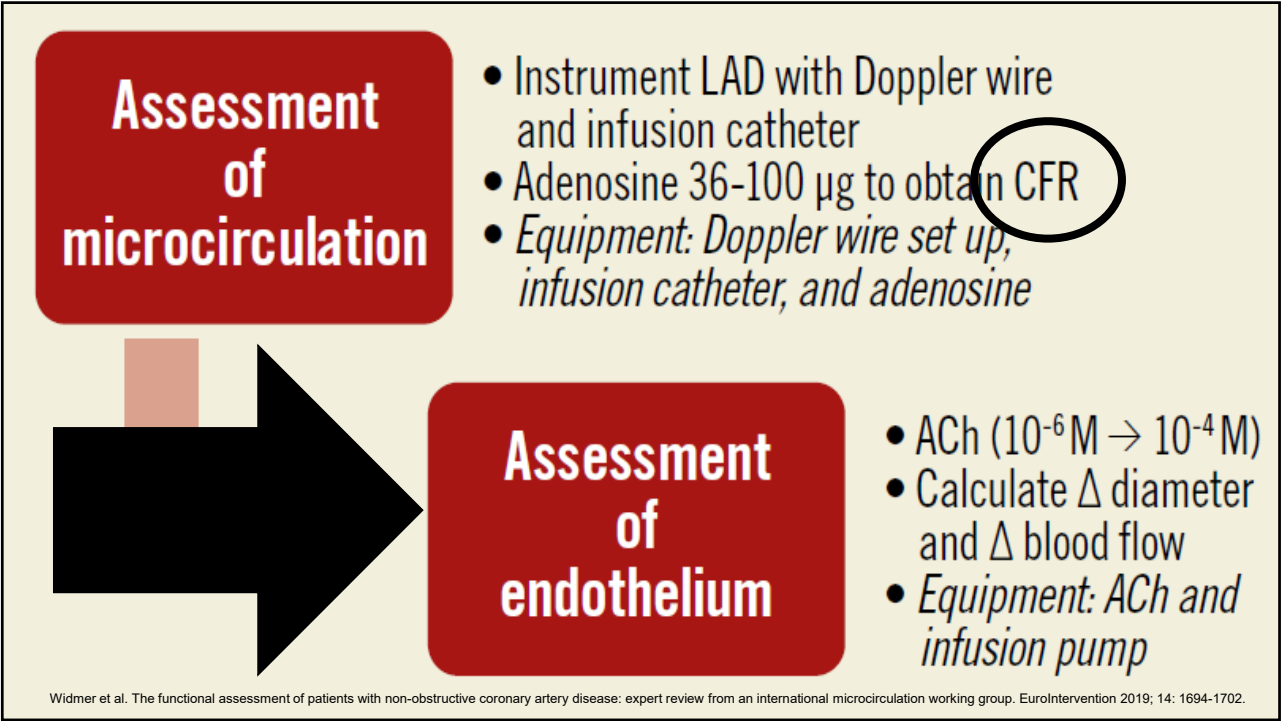


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Risk of invasive coronary reactivity testing: low risk (1%) of adverse events

Safety of Coronary Reactivity Testing in Women  
With No Obstructive Coronary Artery Disease

293 women, mean  
age 54 years (SD 10)

Results From the NHLBI-Sponsored WISE  
(Women's Ischemia Syndrome Evaluation) Study

**Results** CRT-SAEs occurred in 2 women (0.7%) during the procedure. 1 had coronary artery dissection, and 1 developed MI associated with coronary spasm. CRT-AEs occurred in 2 women (0.7%) and included 1 transient air microembolism and 1 deep venous thrombosis. There was no CRT-related mortality. In the mean follow-up period of 5.4 years, the MACE rate was 8.2%, including 5 deaths (1.7%), 8 nonfatal MIs (2.7%), 8 nonfatal strokes (2.7%), and 11 hospitalizations for heart failure (3.8%).

**Conclusions** In women undergoing CRT for suspected MCD, contemporary testing carries a relatively low risk compared with the MACE rate in these women. These results support the use of CRT by experienced operators for establishing definitive diagnosis and assessing prognosis in this at-risk population. (Women's Ischemia Syndrome Evaluation [WISE]; NCT00832702) (J Am Coll Cardiol Intv 2012;5:646–53) © 2012 by the American College of Cardiology Foundation

Wei J et al. JACC Cardiovasc Interv 2012; 5: 646-53.

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VOL. 79, NO. 24, 2022

ORIGINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Safety of Provocative Testing With  
Intracoronary Acetylcholine and  
Implications for Standard Protocols

Tatsunori Takahashi, MD,<sup>a</sup> Bruce A. Samuels, MD,<sup>b</sup> Weijia Li, MD,<sup>a</sup> Manish A. Parikh, MD,<sup>a</sup> Janet Wei, MD,<sup>b</sup>  
Jeffery W. Moses, MD,<sup>a</sup> William F. Fearon, MD,<sup>a</sup> Timothy D. Henry, MD,<sup>a</sup> Jennifer A. Tremmel, MD, MS,<sup>a</sup>  
Yuhel Kobayashi, MD,<sup>a</sup> on behalf of the Microvascular Network

ABSTRACT

**BACKGROUND** Heterogeneity in diagnostic criteria and provocation protocols has posed challenges in understanding the safety of coronary provocation testing with intracoronary acetylcholine (ACh) for the contemporary diagnosis of epicardial and microvascular spasm.

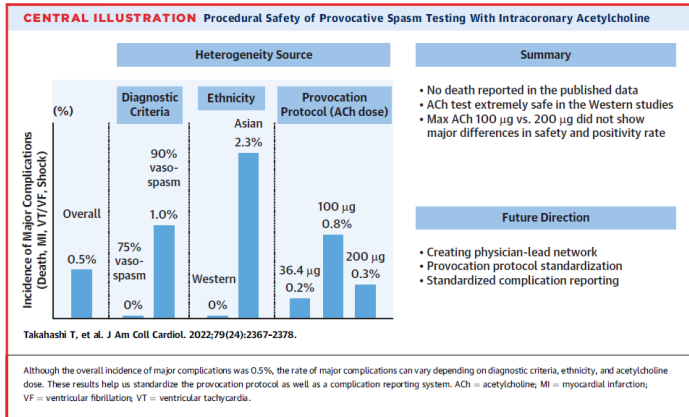
**OBJECTIVES** We examined the safety of testing and subgroup differences in procedural risks based on ethnicity, diagnostic criteria, and provocation protocols.

**METHODS** PubMed and Embase were searched in November 2021 to identify original articles reporting procedural complications associated with intracoronary ACh administration. The primary outcome was the pooled estimate of the incidence of major complications including death, myocardial infarction, ventricular tachycardia/fibrillation, and shock.

**RESULTS** A total of 16 studies with 12,585 patients were included in the meta-analysis. The overall pooled estimate of the incidence of major complications was 0.5% (95% CI: 0.0%–1.3%) without any reports of death. Exploratory subgroup analyses revealed that the pooled incidence of major complications was significantly higher in the studies that followed the contemporary diagnosis criteria for epicardial spasm defined as ≥90% diameter reduction (1.0%; 95% CI: 0.3%–2.0%) but significantly lower in Western populations (0.0%; 95% CI: 0.0%–0.45%). The rate of positive epicardial spasm and the incidence of major complications were similar between provocation protocols using the maximum ACh doses of 100 µg and 200 µg.

**CONCLUSIONS** Intracoronary ACh administration for the contemporary diagnosis of epicardial and microvascular spasm is a safe procedure. Moreover, excellent safety records are observed in Western populations primarily presenting with myocardial ischemia and/or infarction with nonobstructive coronary arteries. This study will help standardize ACh testing to improve clinical diagnosis and ensure procedural safety. (J Am Coll Cardiol. 2022;79:2367–2378) © 2022 by the American College of Cardiology Foundation.

16 studies, 12585 patients  
Pooled estimate of incidence of major complications was  
0.5% without any reports of death.



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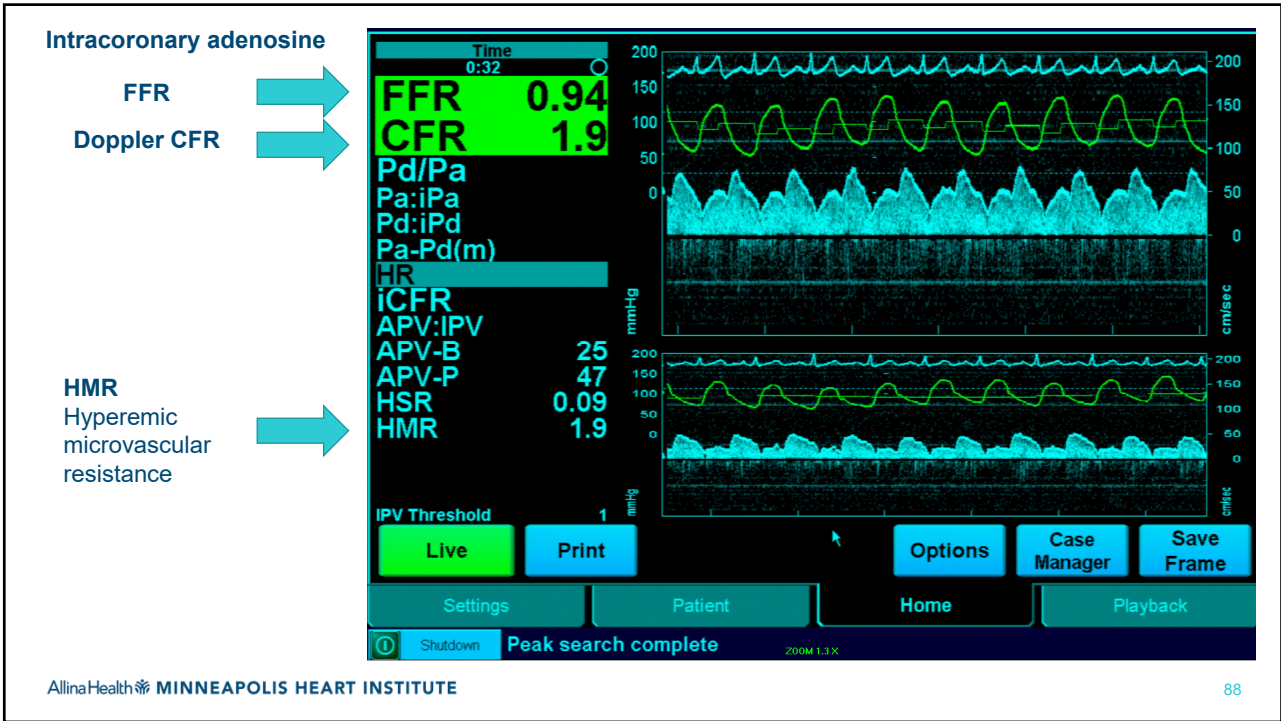
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# Case presentation

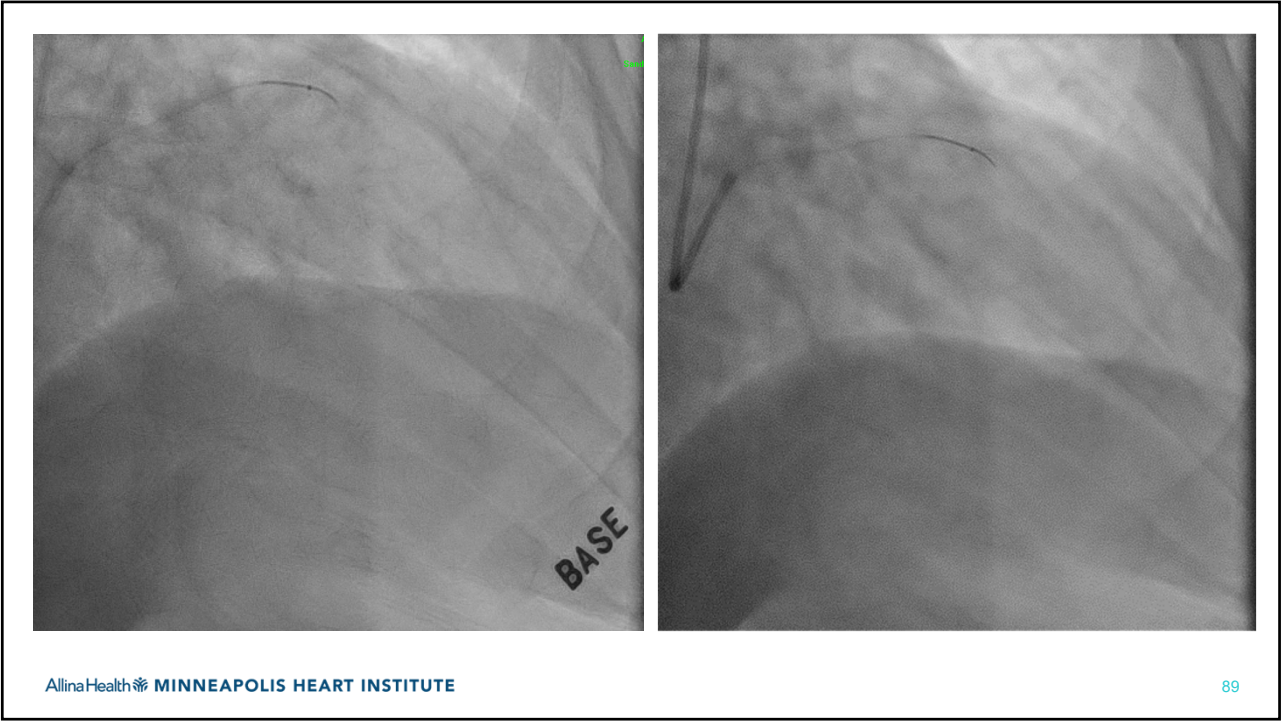
- 70 year-old female with a history of hypertension and dyslipidemia with dyspnea on exertion and chest discomfort.
- Previous CCTA ~3 years ago with no significant obstructive CAD, CAC 100.
- RHC: RA 11, PA 45/18 (30), PCWP 18, CO 5.8, CI 2.6
- LVEDP 17 mmHg

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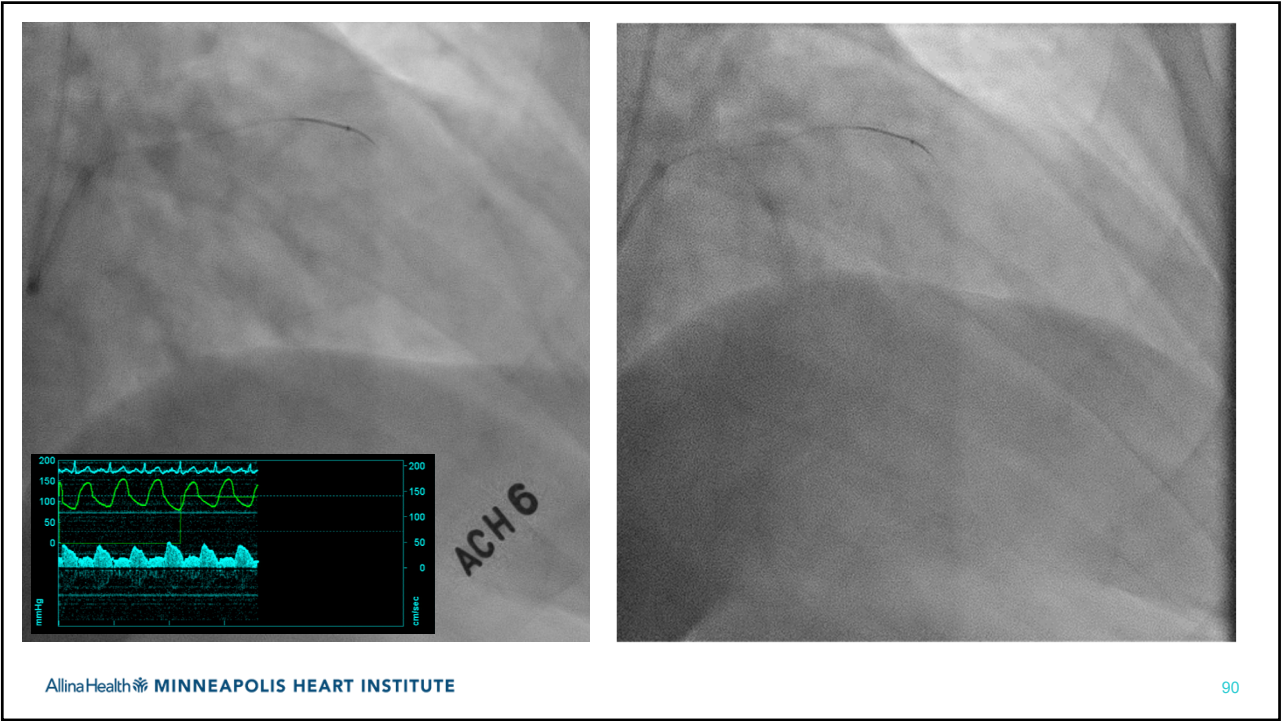


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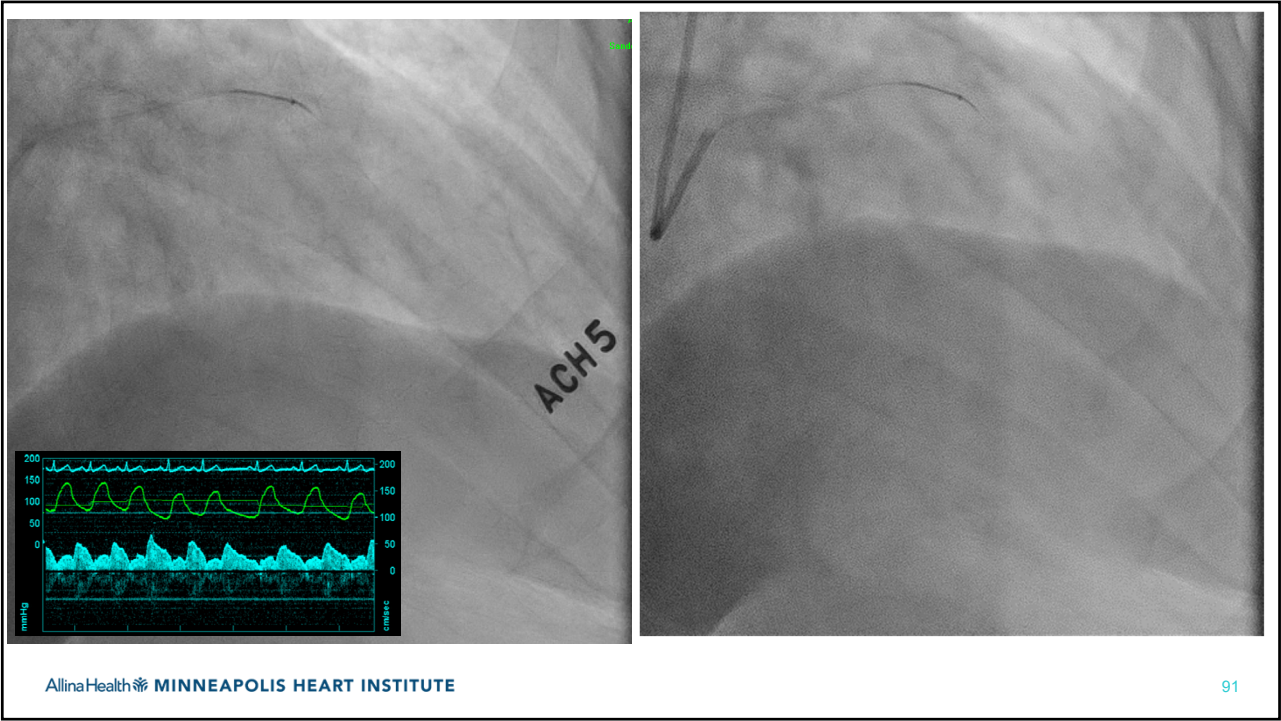




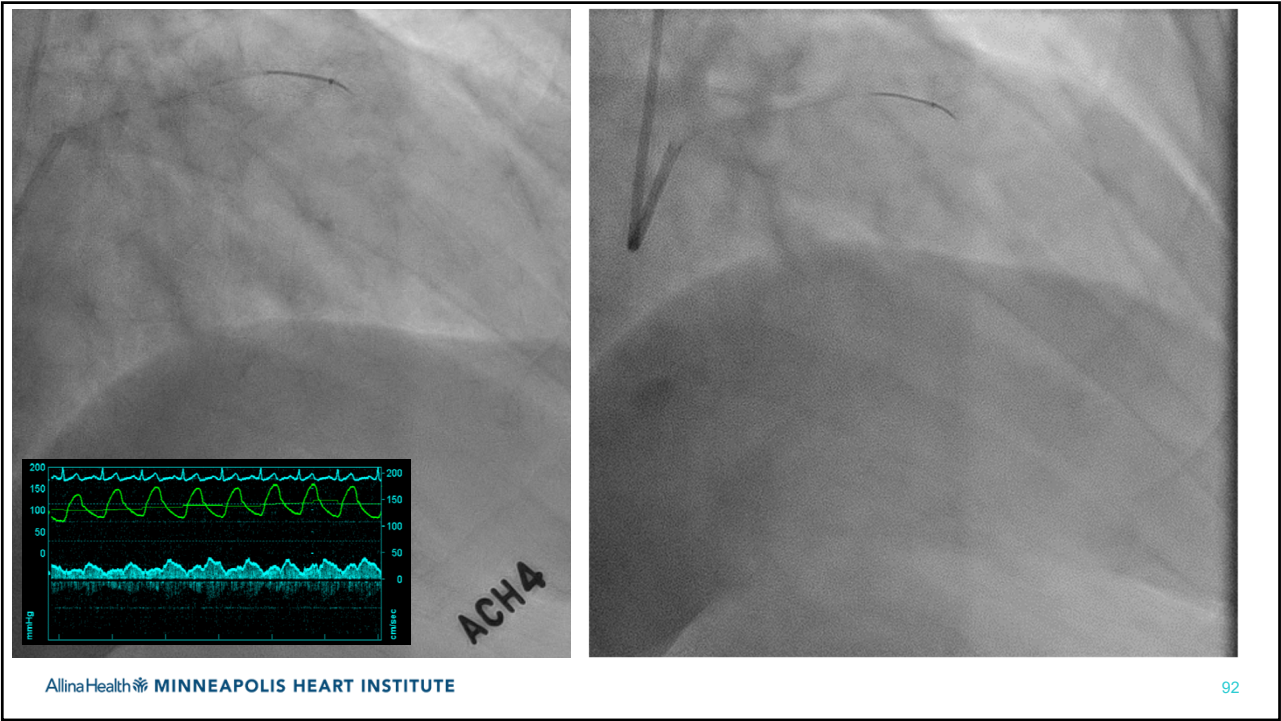
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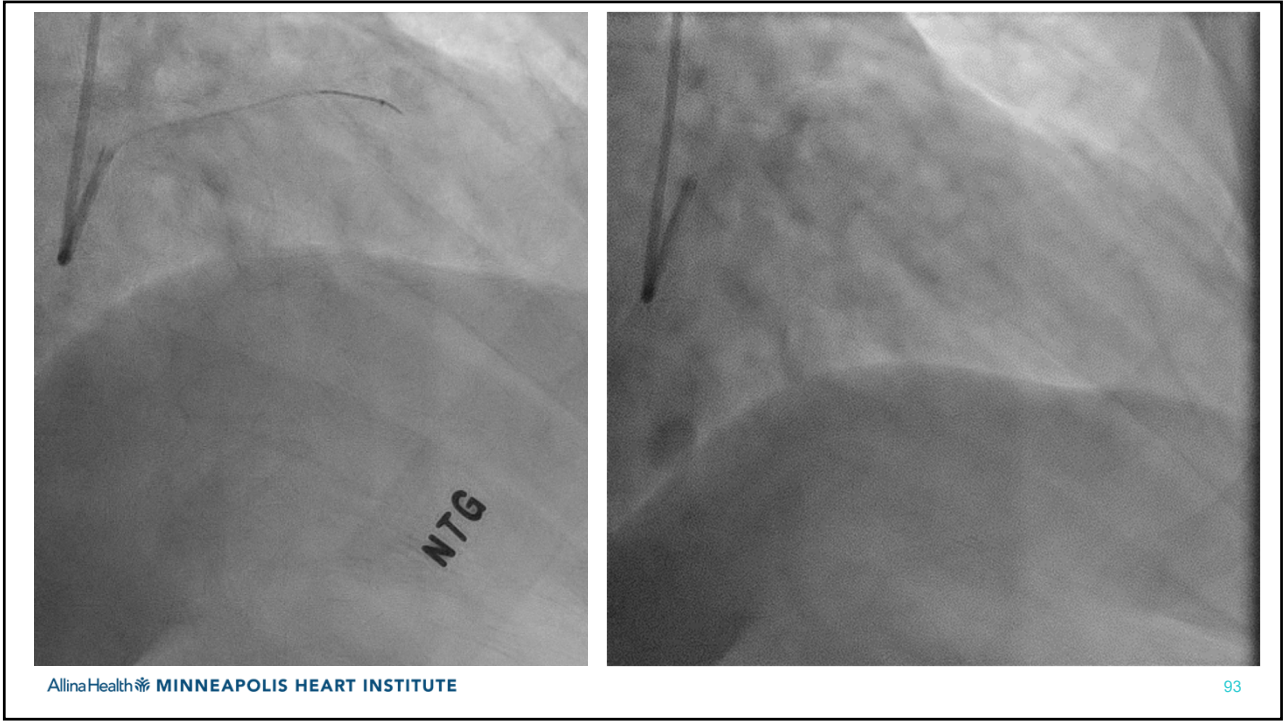
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# Putting it all together


Symptoms	• Reproduction of index symptoms
ECG	• Ischemic ECG findings
CFR (Adenosine)	• Normal CFR: 2.5 Doppler, 2.0 TD
CBF response (ACH)	• Normal % delta CBF>50% (Doppler)
Microvasculature	• TD → IMR ; Doppler → HMR
Epicardial coronary vasomotion (ACH/ NTG)	• Normal >20% diameter (dilation)

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Invasive coronary angiography

No Obstructive CAD

Pressure wire assessment (adenosine)

Normal Invasive Physiology (FFR 0.84, CFR 5.3, IMR 9)

Vasoreactivity (acetylcholine)

Vasospasm with ACh (resolves with nitrate)

Diagnosis & Management

Vasospastic Angina

- Smoking cessation
- Calcium channel blocker
- Long-acting Nitrate
- Lifestyle changes

No Obstructive CAD

Pressure wire assessment (adenosine)

Coronary Microvascular Dysfunction (FFR 0.95, CFR 1.3, IMR 33)

Vasoreactivity (acetylcholine)

Endothelial dysfunction without vasospasm to ACh

Diagnosis & Management

Microvascular Angina

- Betablocker (e.g. Nebivolol)
- Lifestyle changes & weight loss (Cardiac rehab, smoking cessation)
- Consider ACEi & Statin

No Obstructive CAD

Pressure wire assessment (adenosine)

Normal invasive physiology (FFR 0.87, CFR 3.2, IMR 16)

Vasoreactivity (acetylcholine)

No significant response to vasoreactivity testing

Diagnosis & Management

Non-Cardiac Chest Pain

- Stop antianginal Rx
- Discharge from cardiology
- Consider non-cardiac investigation

Outcome	Between Group Difference in SAQ	Favors
Angina Summary Score	~15	Intervention
Angina Limitation	~10	Intervention
Angina Stability	~10	Intervention
Angina Frequency	~10	Intervention
Treatment Satisfaction	~10	Intervention
Quality of Life	~10	Intervention

Ford TJ et al. Stratified medical therapy using invasive coronary function testing in angina: The CorMicA trial. JACC 2018; 72: 2841-2855.

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COSIMA: COronary Sinus Reducer for the Treatment of Refractory Microvascular Angina (COSIMA)

Coronary sinus

Coronary-sinus reducing device

Catheter

Heart

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT04606459

Recruitment Status : Recruiting

First Posted : October 28, 2020

Last Update Posted : March 31, 2022

[See Contacts and Locations](#)

[View this study on Beta.ClinicalTrials.gov](#)

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Circulation Research

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

IMPROvE-CED Trial: Intracoronary Autologous CD34+ Cell Therapy for Treatment of Coronary Endothelial Dysfunction in Patients With Angina and Nonobstructive Coronary Arteries

Michel T. Corban, Takumi Toyo, Diana Albers, Faten Sebaali, Bradley R. Lewis, John Bois, Rajiv Gulati, Abhiram Prasad, Patricia J.M. Best, Malcolm R. Bell, Charanjit S. Rihal, Megha Prasad, Ali Ahmad, Lilach O. Lerman, Mary L. Solse, Jeffrey L. Winters, Allan B. Dietz, Amir Lerman

**BACKGROUND:** Coronary endothelial dysfunction (CED) causes angina/ischemia in patients with nonobstructive coronary artery disease (NOCAD). Patients with CED have decreased number and function of CD34+ cells involved in normal vascular repair with microcirculatory regenerative potential and paracrine anti-inflammatory effects. We evaluated safety and potential efficacy of intracoronary autologous CD34+ cell therapy for CED.

**METHODS:** Twenty NOCAD patients with invasively diagnosed CED and persistent angina despite maximally tolerated medical therapy underwent baseline exercise stress test, G-CSF (granulocyte colony stimulating factor)-mediated CD34+ cell mobilization, leukapheresis, and selective 1x10<sup>6</sup> CD34+ cells/kg infusion into left anterior descending. Invasive CED evaluation and exercise stress test were repeated 6 months after cell infusion. Primary end points were safety and effect of intracoronary autologous CD34+ cell therapy on CED at 6 months of follow-up. Secondary end points were change in Canadian Cardiovascular Society angina class, as-needed sublingual nitroglycerin use/day, Seattle Angina Questionnaire scores, and exercise time at 6 months. Change in CED was compared with that of 51 historic control NOCAD patients treated with maximally tolerated medical therapy alone.

**RESULTS:** Mean age was 52±13 years; 75% were women. No death, myocardial infarction, or stroke occurred. Intracoronary CD34+ cell infusion improved microvascular CED (%acetylcholine-mediated coronary blood flow increased from 72 [–18.0 to 32.4] to 576 [16.3–98.3]%;  $P=0.014$ ), decreased Canadian Cardiovascular Society angina class (3.7±0.5 to 1.7±0.9, Wilcoxon signed-rank test,  $P=0.00018$ ), and sublingual nitroglycerin use/day (1 [0.4–3.5] to 0 [0–1], Wilcoxon signed-rank test,  $P=0.00047$ ), and improved all Seattle Angina Questionnaire scores with no significant change in exercise time at 6 months of follow-up. Historic control patients had no significant change in CED.

**CONCLUSIONS:** A single intracoronary autologous CD34+ cell infusion was safe and may potentially be an effective disease-modifying therapy for microvascular CED in humans.

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Improved microvascular endothelial function

Improved SAQ Angina and Quality of Life Scores

Improved CCS Angina Class and SL Nitro Use

The figure consists of three violin plots comparing baseline and follow-up data for two groups: Controls and CEDs. The top plot shows % Change CBF (p=0.650 for Controls, p=0.014 for CEDs). The middle plot shows SAQ scores for Physical Limitation, Angina Stability, Angina Frequency, Treatment Satisfaction, Quality of Life, and Summary Score (all p-values are significant). The bottom plot shows CCS Angina Class and As-Needed Sublingual Nitroglycerin Use/Day (both p-values are significant).

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Circulation: Cardiovascular Interventions

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Autologous CD34+ Stem Cell Therapy Increases Coronary Flow Reserve and Reduces Angina in Patients With Coronary Microvascular Dysfunction

Timothy D. Henry, MD; C. Noel Bairey Merz, MD; Janet Wei, MD; Michel T. Corban, MD; Odysse Quesada, MD; Sandy Jung, MHS; Christine L. Kotlynski, BS; Jian Wang, ScM, MD; Michelle Lewis, BS; Ann M. Schumacher, RN, MSN, CCRA; Ronnda L. Bartel, PhD; Hiroshi Takagi, DVM; Vishal Shah, MS; Anna Lee, PhD; William K. Sietsema, PhD; Douglas W. Losordo, MD; Amir Lerman, MD

**BACKGROUND:** Coronary microvascular dysfunction results in angina and adverse outcomes in patients with evidence of ischemia and nonobstructive coronary artery disease; however, no specific therapy exists. CD34+ cell therapy increases microvasculature in preclinical models and improves symptoms, exercise tolerance, and mortality in refractory angina patients with obstructive coronary artery disease. The objective of this research was to evaluate the safety, tolerability, and efficacy of intracoronary CD34+ cell therapy in patients with coronary microvascular dysfunction.

**METHODS:** We conducted a 2-center, 20-participant trial of autologous CD34+ cell therapy (protocol CLBS16-P01; NCT03050609) in patients with ischemia and nonobstructive coronary artery disease with persistent angina and coronary flow reserve  $\leq 2.5$ . Efficacy measures included coronary flow reserve, angina frequency, Canadian Cardiovascular Society angina class, Seattle Angina Questionnaire, SF-36, and modified Bruce exercise treadmill test obtained at baseline and 6 months after treatment. Autologous CD34+ cells (CLBS16) were mobilized by administration of granulocyte-colony stimulating factor 5pg/kg/day for 5 days and collected by leukapheresis. Participants received a single intracoronary left anterior descending infusion of isolated CD34+ cells in medium that enhances cell function.

**RESULTS:** Coronary flow reserve improved from 2.08±0.32 at baseline to 2.68±0.79 at 6 months after treatment ( $P<0.005$ ). Angina frequency decreased ( $P<0.004$ ), Canadian Cardiovascular Society class improved ( $P<0.001$ ), and quality of life improved as assessed by the Seattle Angina Questionnaire ( $P\leq 0.03$ , all scales) and SF-36 ( $P\leq 0.04$ , all scales). There were no cell-related serious adverse events.

**CONCLUSIONS:** In this pilot clinical trial of microvascular angina, patients with ischemia and nonobstructive coronary artery disease receiving intracoronary infusion of CD34+ cell therapy had higher coronary flow reserve, less severe angina, and better quality of life at 6 months. The current study supports a potential therapeutic role for CD34+ cells in patients with microvascular angina.

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Coronary Flow Reserve

Average Angina Episodes per Day


The figure consists of two line graphs showing individual patient data from baseline to 6 months. The top graph shows Coronary Flow Reserve (p-value: <0.005) and the bottom graph shows Average Angina Episodes per Day (p-value: <0.004). Both show a clear downward trend for most patients.

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**DISCOVER INOCA (NCT05288361): 500 participants over 2-years at 10 US sites**


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### The DISCOVER INOCA Prospective Multi-center Registry (DISCOVER INOCA)

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**Study Description**

**Brief Summary:**  
The overall objective of this multi-center registry is to identify specific phenotypes of INOCA with both an anatomic evaluation (coronary angiography and intravascular imaging outcomes).

Condition or disease	Intervention/treatment
Ischemia and No Obstructive Coronary Artery Disease	Diagnostic Test: Corvenits Coroflow Cardiovascular
Coronary Microvascular Dysfunction	
Coronary Vasospasm	
Endothelial Dysfunction	


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**DISCOVER INOCA:** adult patients >18 years of age with suspected ischemic heart disease referred to undergo clinically indicated invasive coronary angiography, with no obstructive CAD (angiographically normal, <50% CAD, or ≥50 but <70% with FFR≥0.81 or RFR≥0.90

**Diagnostic assessment:** coronary angiography, acetylcholine provocation, coronary physiology, intra-coronary imaging.

**Patient reported outcomes:** SAQ, EQ-5D-5L, PHQ-8, GAD-7






**Study follow-up:** 30-days, 6-months, 12-months, annually for 5-years.


**Primary endpoint:** major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE) defined as a composite of cardiovascular death, myocardial infarction, hospitalization for cardiovascular causes, or coronary revascularization at a follow-up of 5-years.

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# Take home points

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-  Microvascular disease is common and nomenclature is evolving with terms such as INOCA and MINOCA used to refer to patients with stable and unstable presentations.
-  MVD represents a spectrum of those with epicardial coronary spasm to those with abnormal microcirculation without spasm.
-  Non-invasive MBF can be assessed using PET or CMRI
-  The gold-standard comprehensive approach remains invasive evaluation, which can be performed using either Doppler or Thermodilution with ACH spasm provocation.
-  Randomized data emerging to support diagnosis and tailored therapies.

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