

# Nuclear Cardiology

Eliana Reyes, MD PhD

Royal Brompton Hospital

National Heart and Lung Institute, Imperial College London

Imperial College  
London



Royal Brompton & Harefield

# Radionuclide Imaging Techniques

Perfusion



Radionuclide SPECT imaging  
Positron emission tomography (PET)

Function



Radionuclide ventriculography  
Gated-ECG SPECT

Sympathetic innervation



MIBG (Meta Iodo Benzyl  
Guanidine)

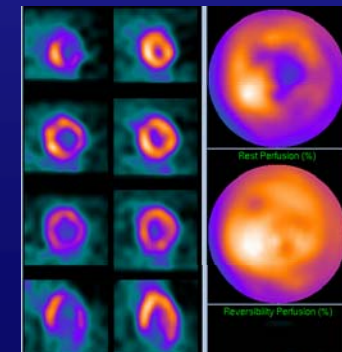
Myocardial metabolism



F-18 fluorodeoxyglucose ( $^{18}\text{F}$ FDG)  
I-123-labelled modified fatty acids

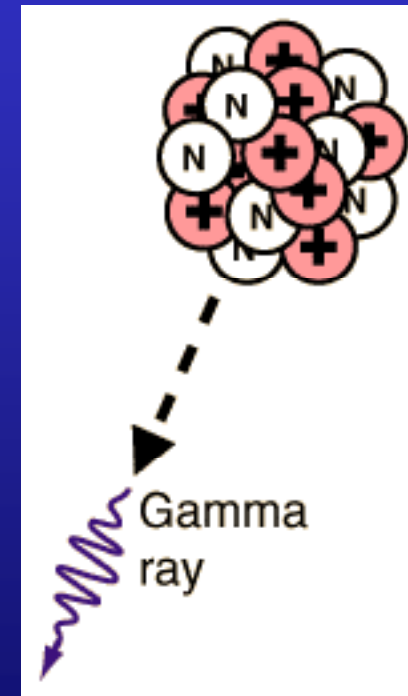
# Radionuclide MPS - Principles

- Perfusion tracers
- Cardiac stress
- Gamma camera
- Image reconstruction and interpretation



# Radionuclides

- Unstable isotopes or nuclides are called **radioisotopes** or **radionuclides**
- Nuclear transitions lead to emission of a **gamma ray**
- Electron transitions lead to emission of an **X-ray**



# Radioactive decay

Exponential decay is characterised by **half-life**  
(the time for half of the radioactive nuclei in a sample to decay)

$^{238}\text{U}$       $4.5 \times 10^9$  years

$^{14}\text{C}$      5730 years

$^{226}\text{Ra}$      1600 years

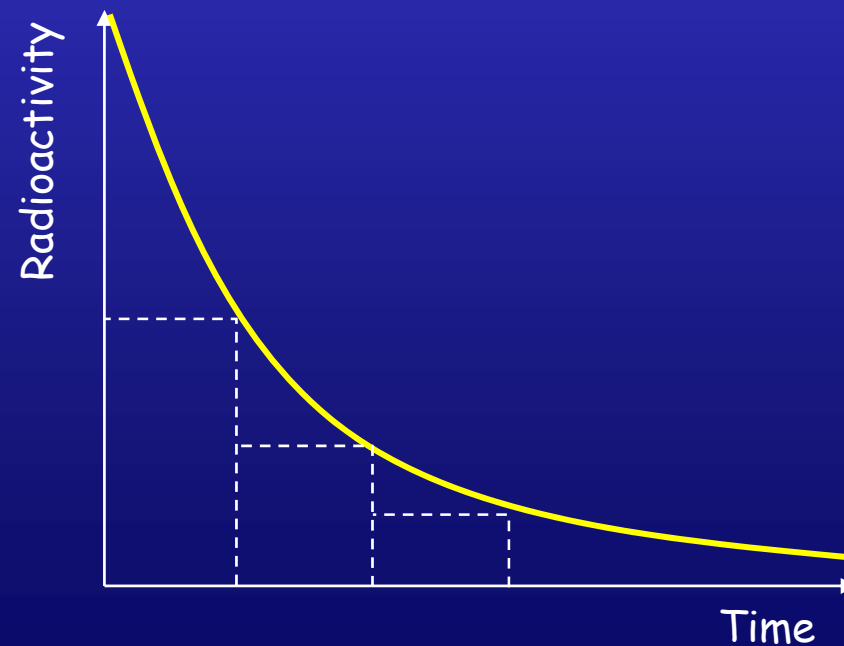
$^{131}\text{I}$      8 days

$^{201}\text{Tl}$      72 hours

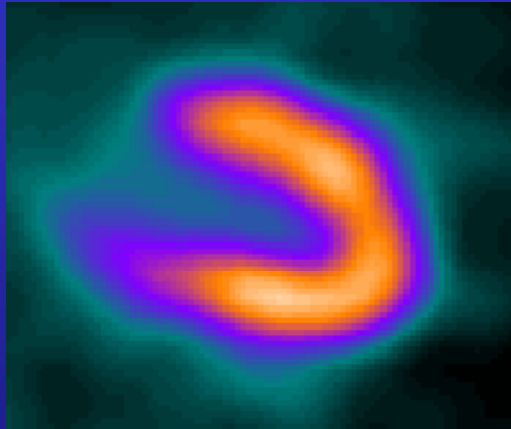
$^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$      6 hours

$^{18}\text{F}$      2 hours

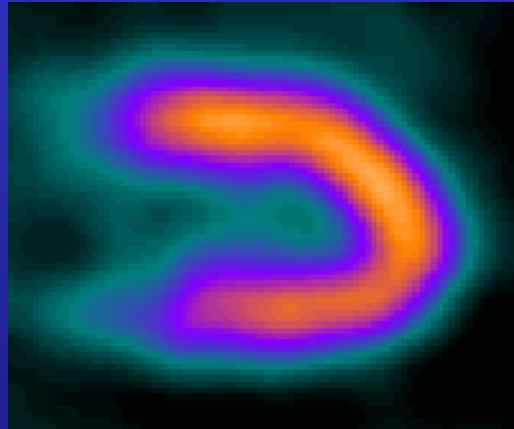
$^{15}\text{O}$      2 minutes



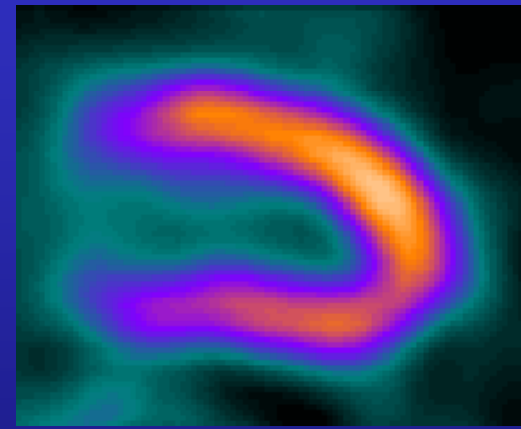
# Myocardial perfusion tracers



Thallium-201

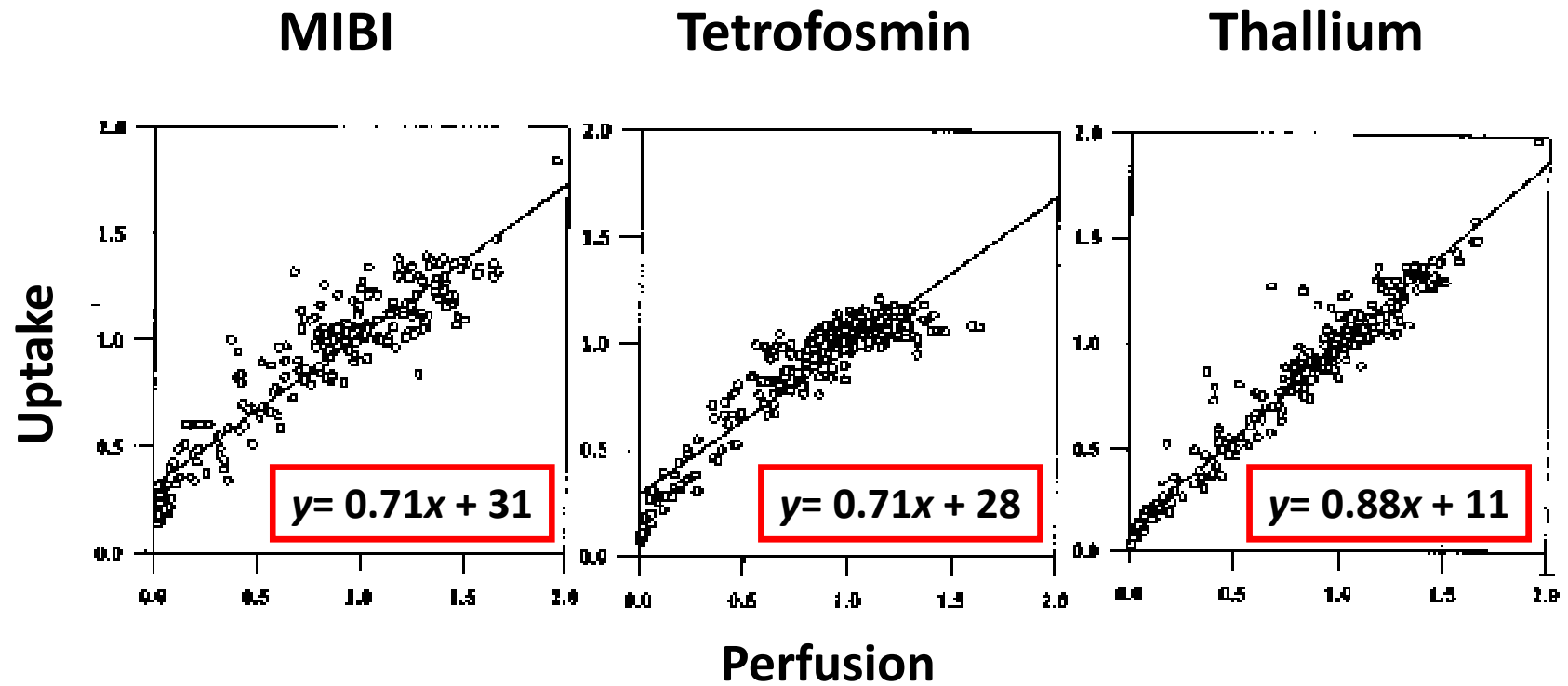


Tc-99m MIBI



Tc-99m Tetrofosmin

# Tracer Uptake versus Perfusion



# Imaging protocols

## Thallium

Stress - redistribution  
Stress - redistribution - reinjection  
Stress - reinjection  
Stress - reinjection - 24 hour imaging  
Rest  
Rest - redistribution

## Technetium

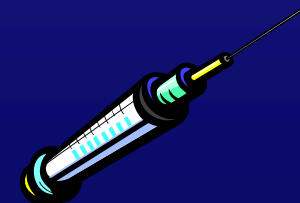
Two day  
One day, stress - rest  
One day, rest - stress

## Dual isotope

Rest thallium - stress technetium  
Others

## Adjuncts

Nitrate  
Fatty meal





## Dosimetry and Radiation Exposure According to ARSAC \* Recommendations 2006

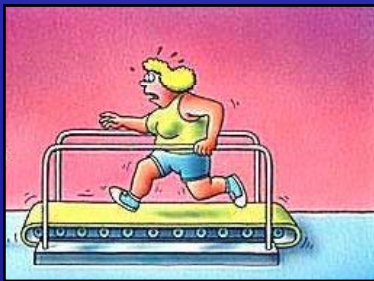
Radionuclide	Imaging	Diagnostic Reference Level MBq	Effective Dose mSv
Thallium-201	Stress/Redistribution	80	14
Tc-99m	Stress (one-day)	250	2 - 2.5
	Rest (one-day)	750	5.6 - 7.5
	Two-day protocol	400	3 - 4

\* Administration of Radioactive Substances Advisory Committee

# Cardiac stress

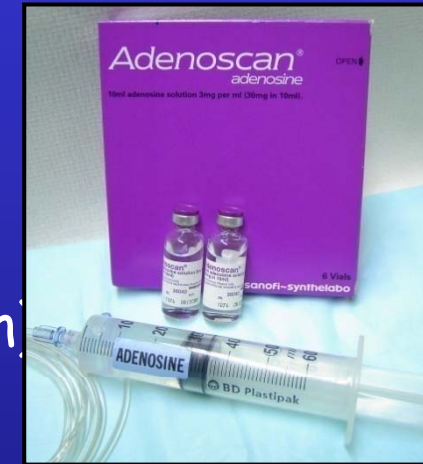
- **Exercise**

- Dynamic
- Isometric



- **Vasodilators**

- Adenosine
- Dipyridamole
- Regadenoson (Rapiscan)

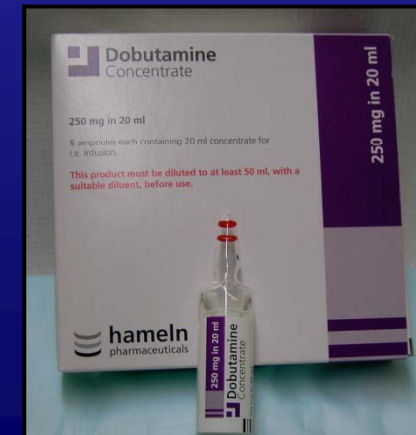


- **Other**

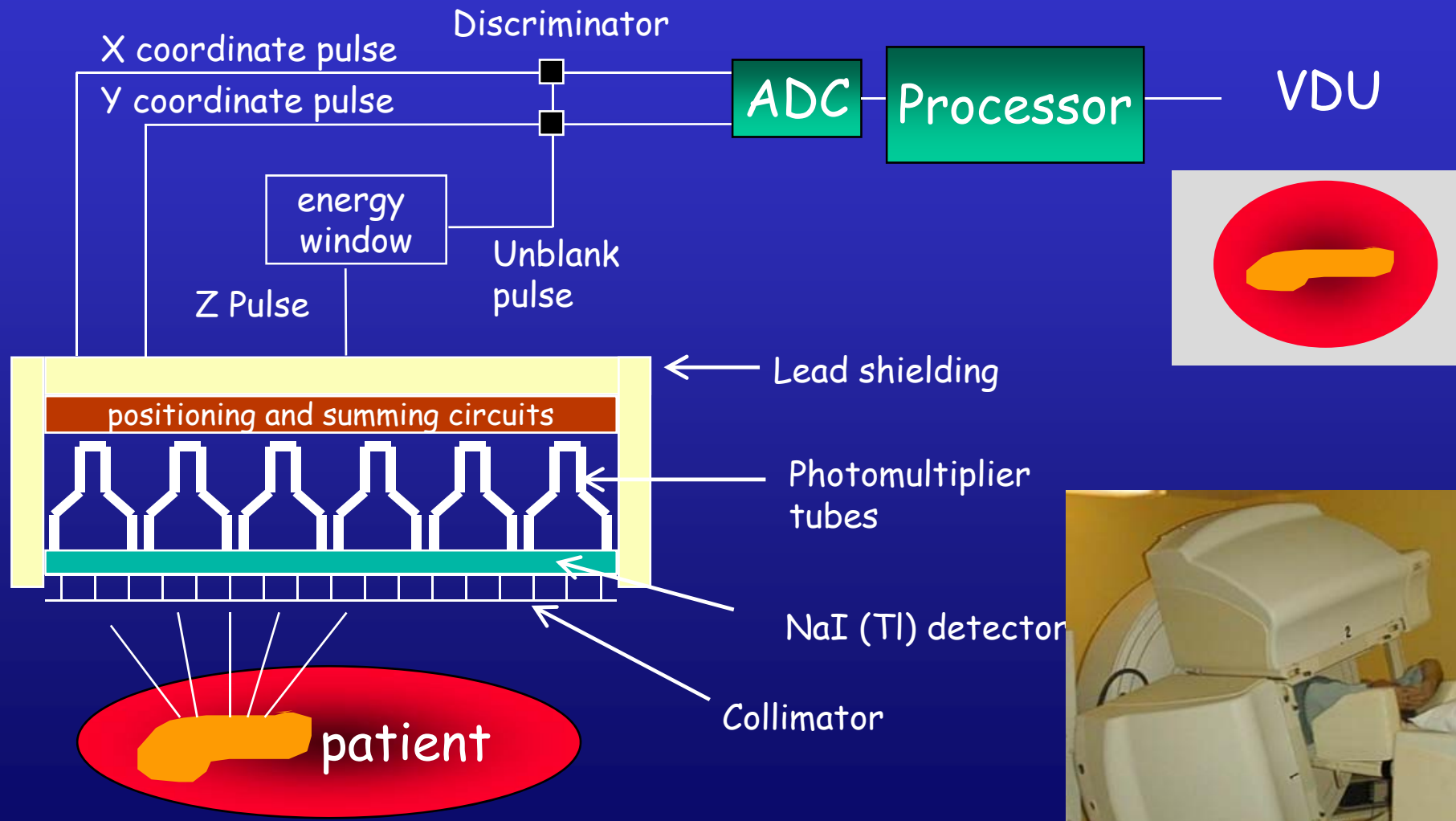
- Pacing
- Cold pressor test

- **Inotropic agents**

- Dobutamine

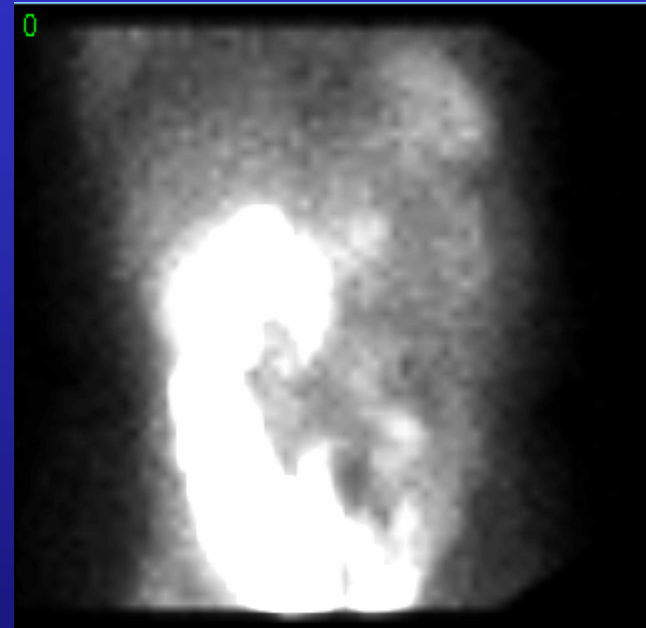


# Gamma Camera



# Raw Cardiac SPECT Data

- Heart within FOV
- Sources of artefact
  - motion & upward creep
  - attenuation by soft tissue or objects
  - hot activity next to heart
  - low counts
- Pathology
  - LV dilation/TID
  - RV dilation/hypertrophy
  - lung uptake
  - other significant tracer uptake outside heart
  - pattern of myocardial uptake

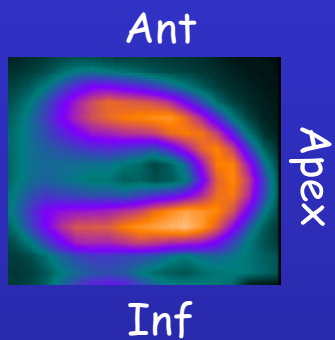


Cine raw data

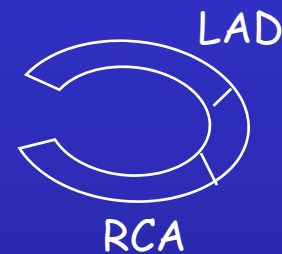
# Tomograms



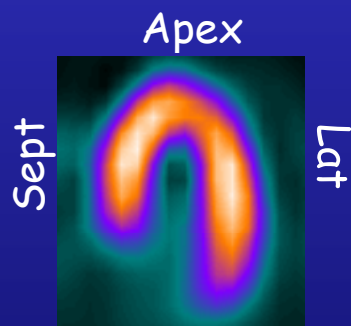
VLA



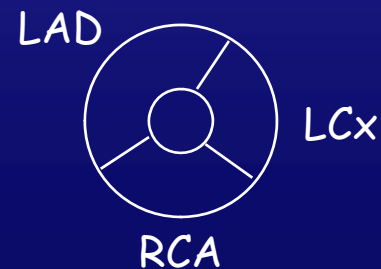
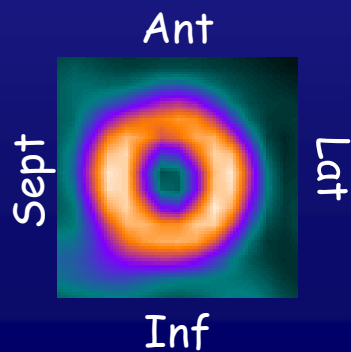
## Vascular territories



HLA



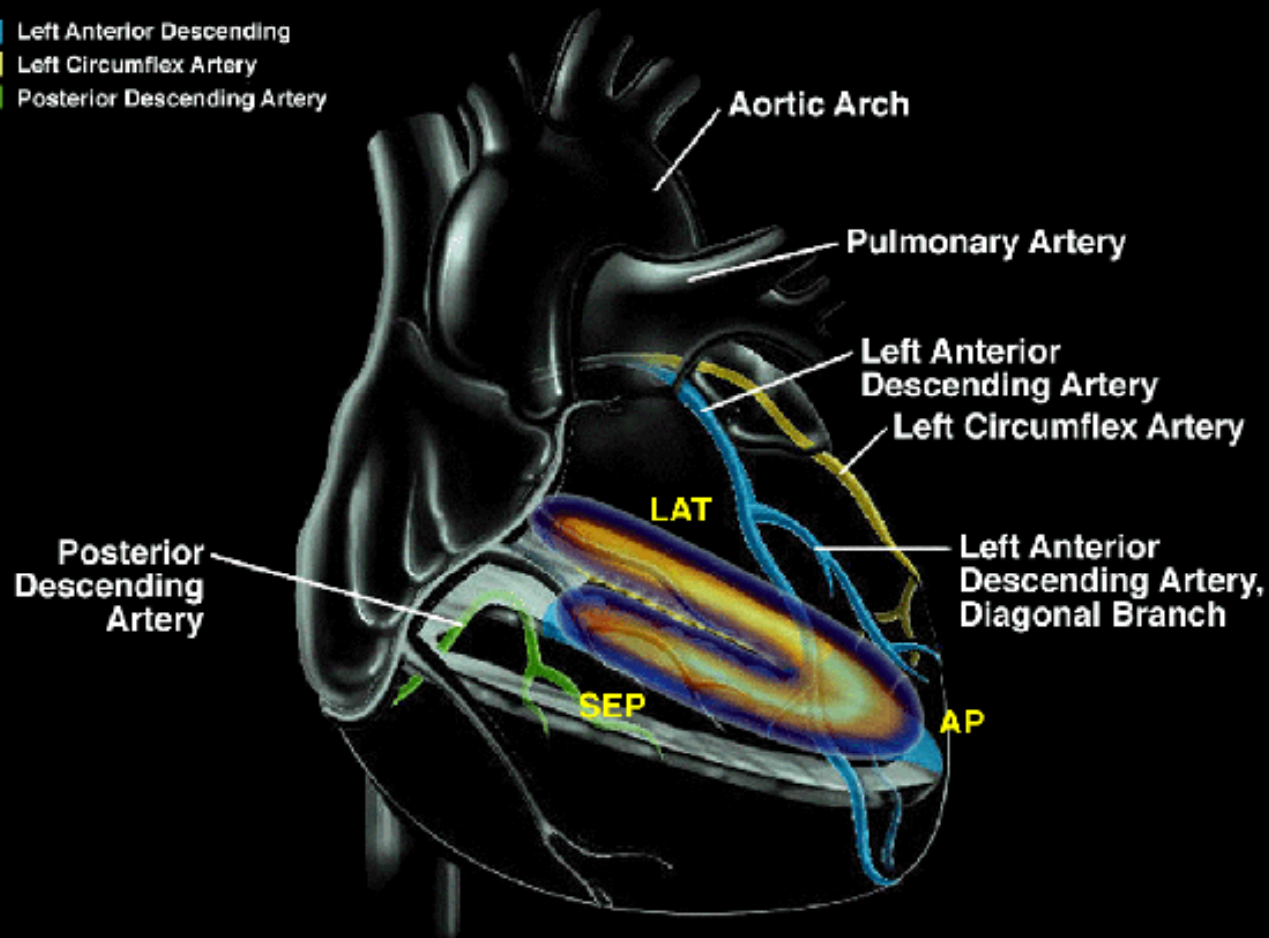
SA



# TOMOGRAPHIC VIEWS

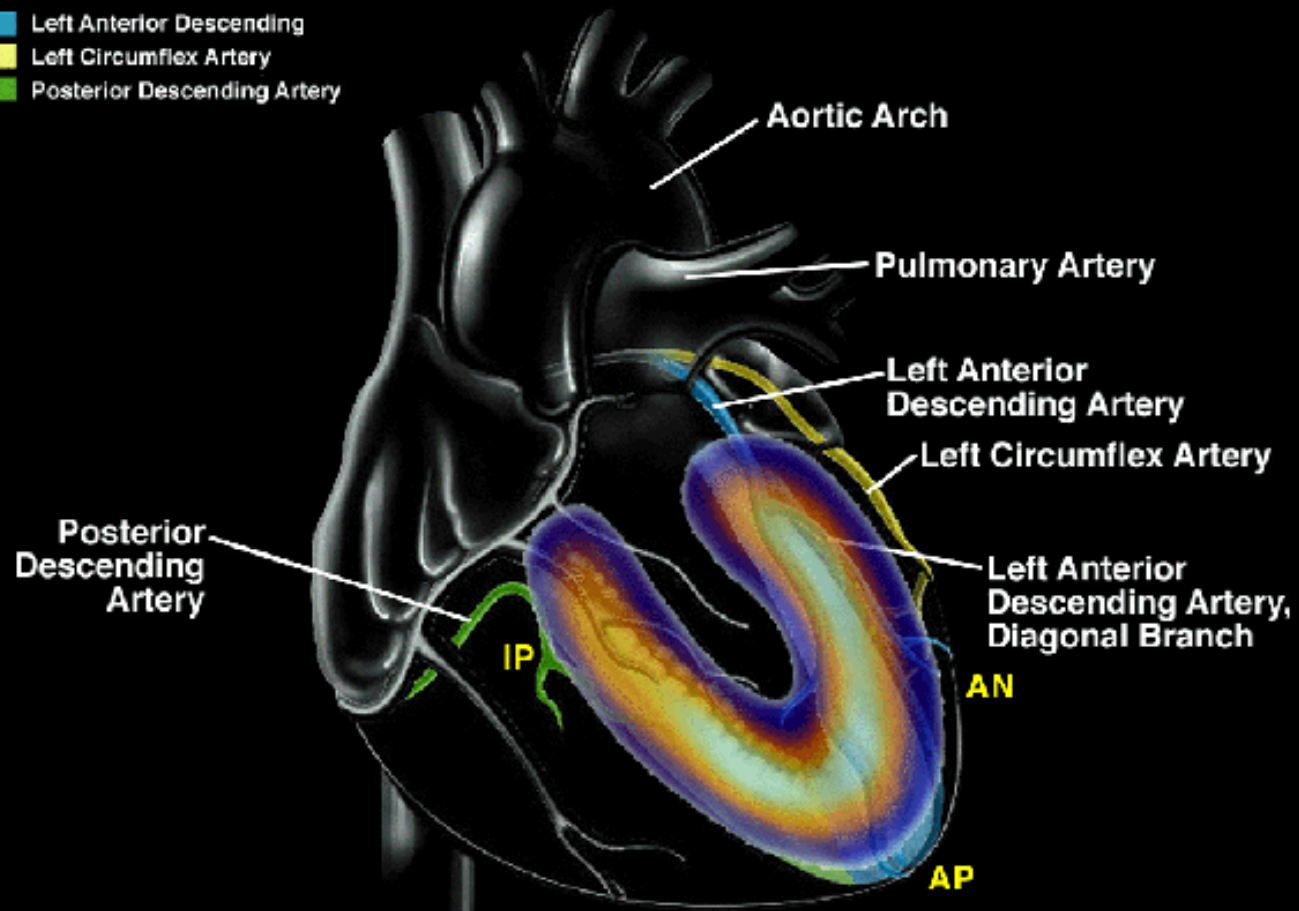
Horizontal Long Axis  
(HLA)

- Left Anterior Descending
- Left Circumflex Artery
- Posterior Descending Artery



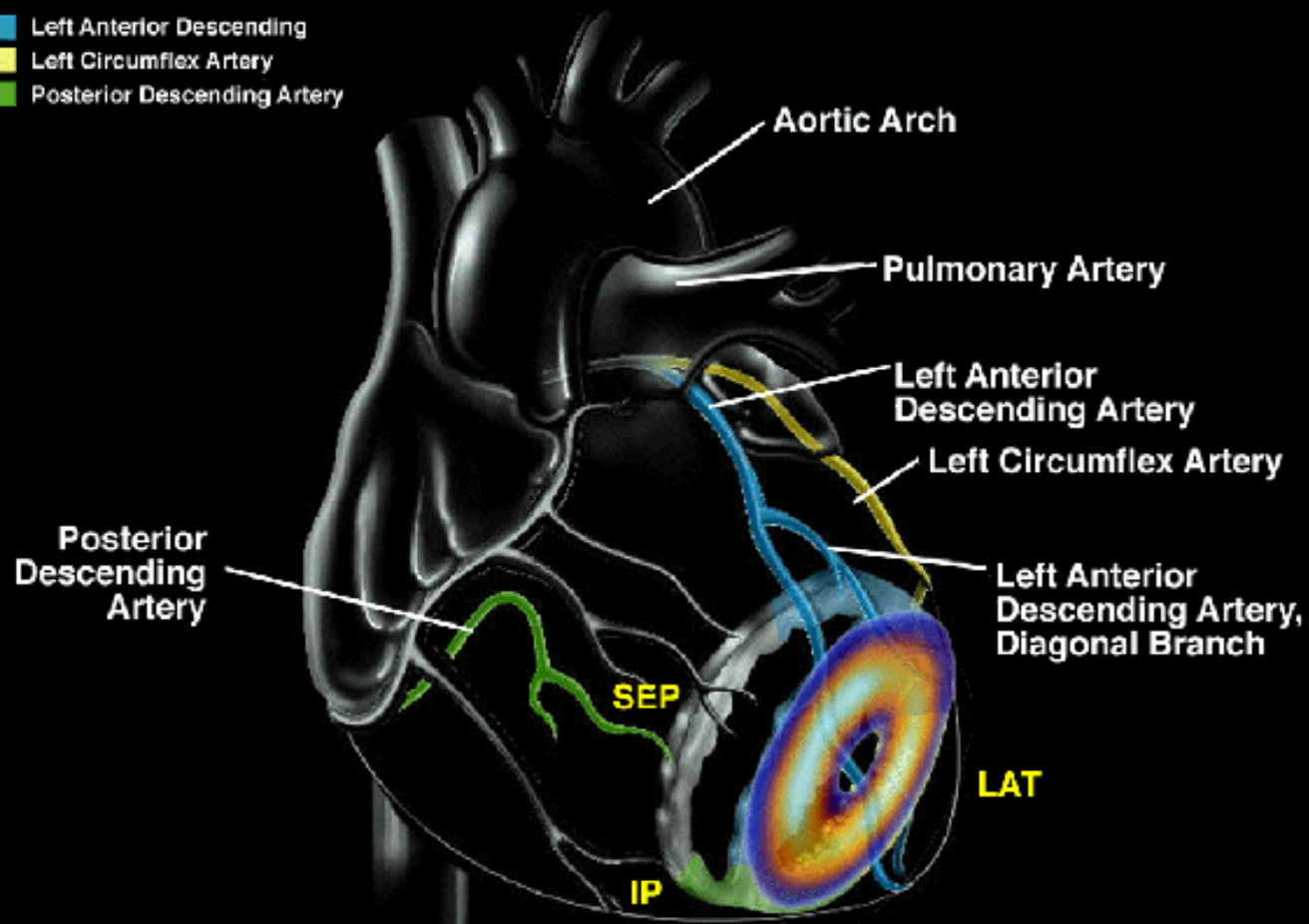
# Vertical Long Axis (VLA)

- Left Anterior Descending
- Left Circumflex Artery
- Posterior Descending Artery



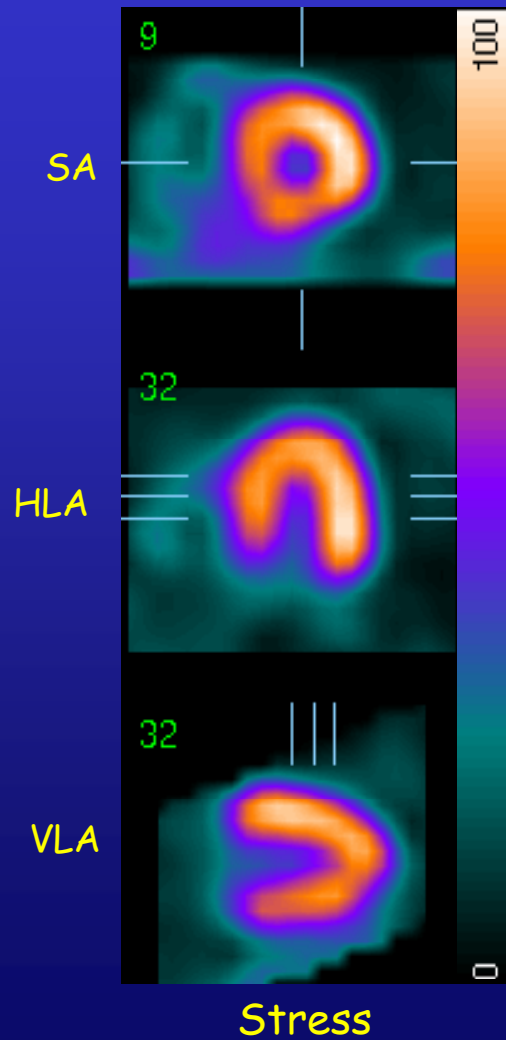
## Short Axis (SA)

- Left Anterior Descending
- Left Circumflex Artery
- Posterior Descending Artery

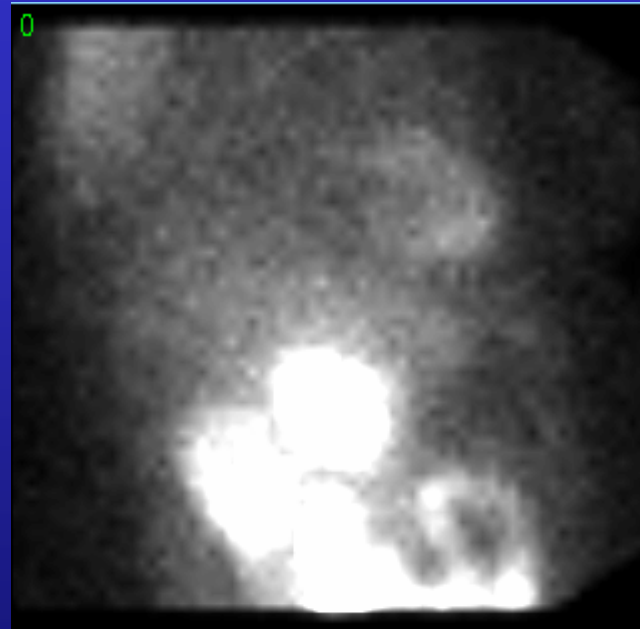




# Normal



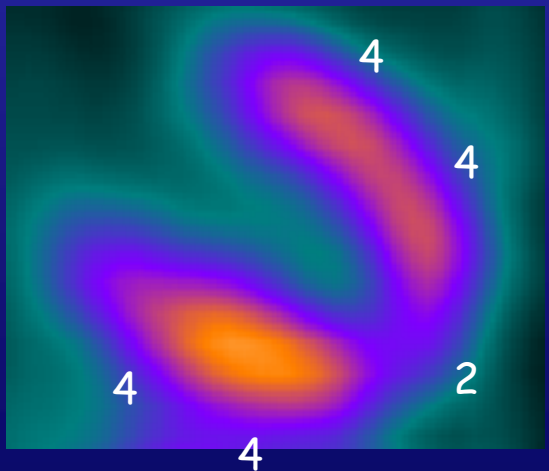
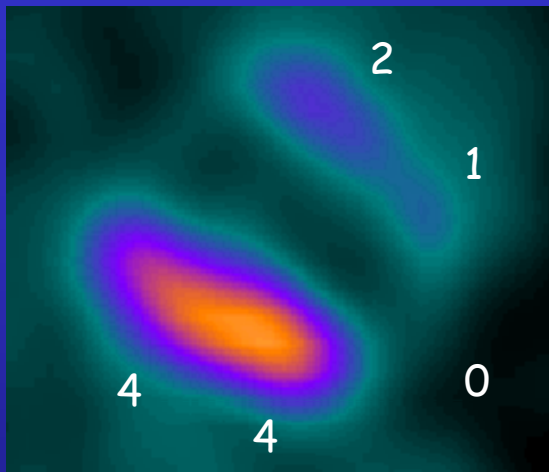
67-year old female ex-smoker  
with atypical chest pain.



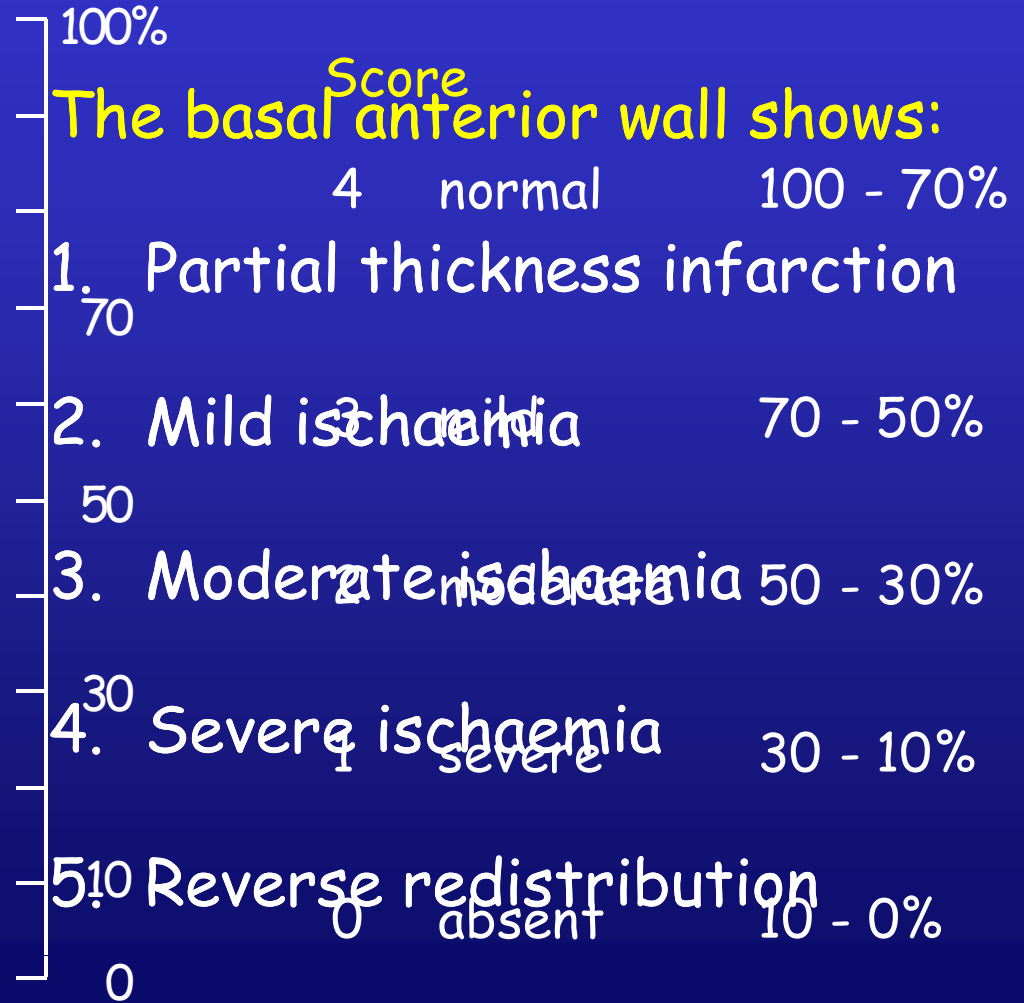
- homogeneous
- septum-to-lateral wall ratio  $< 1$
- septum slightly shorter than lateral wall

# Image interpretation

Stress

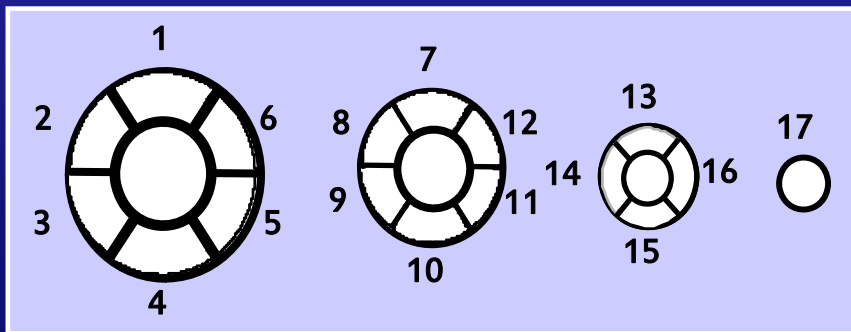


Rest

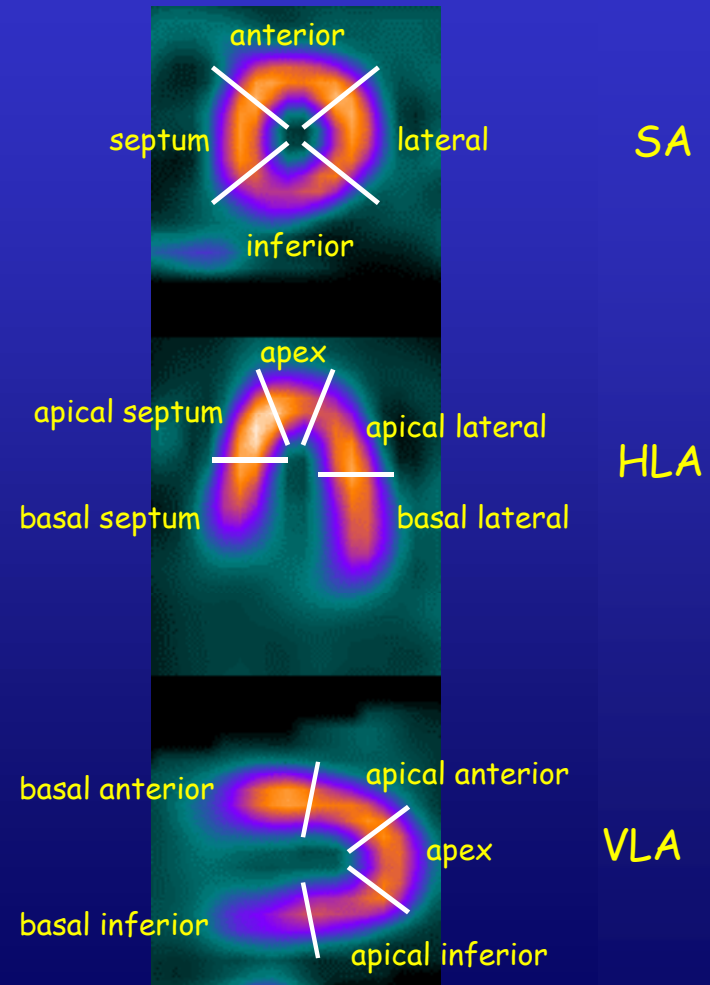


# Interpretation: Extent of Defect

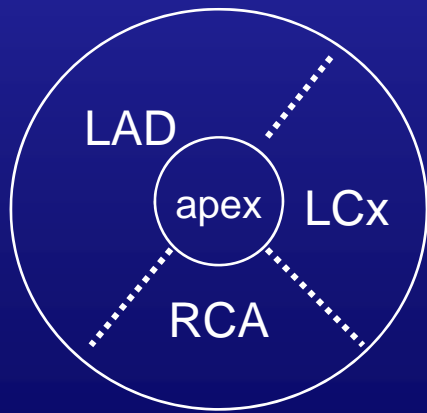
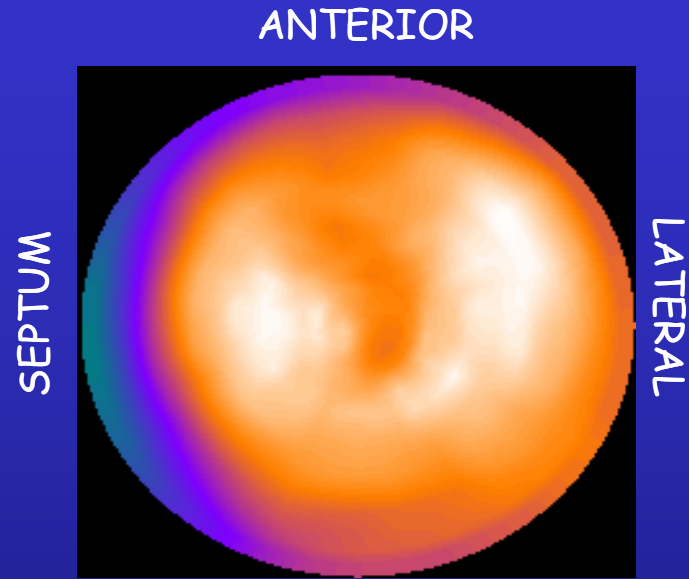
- 9, 17- or 20-segment models
- 9-segment model most useful clinically



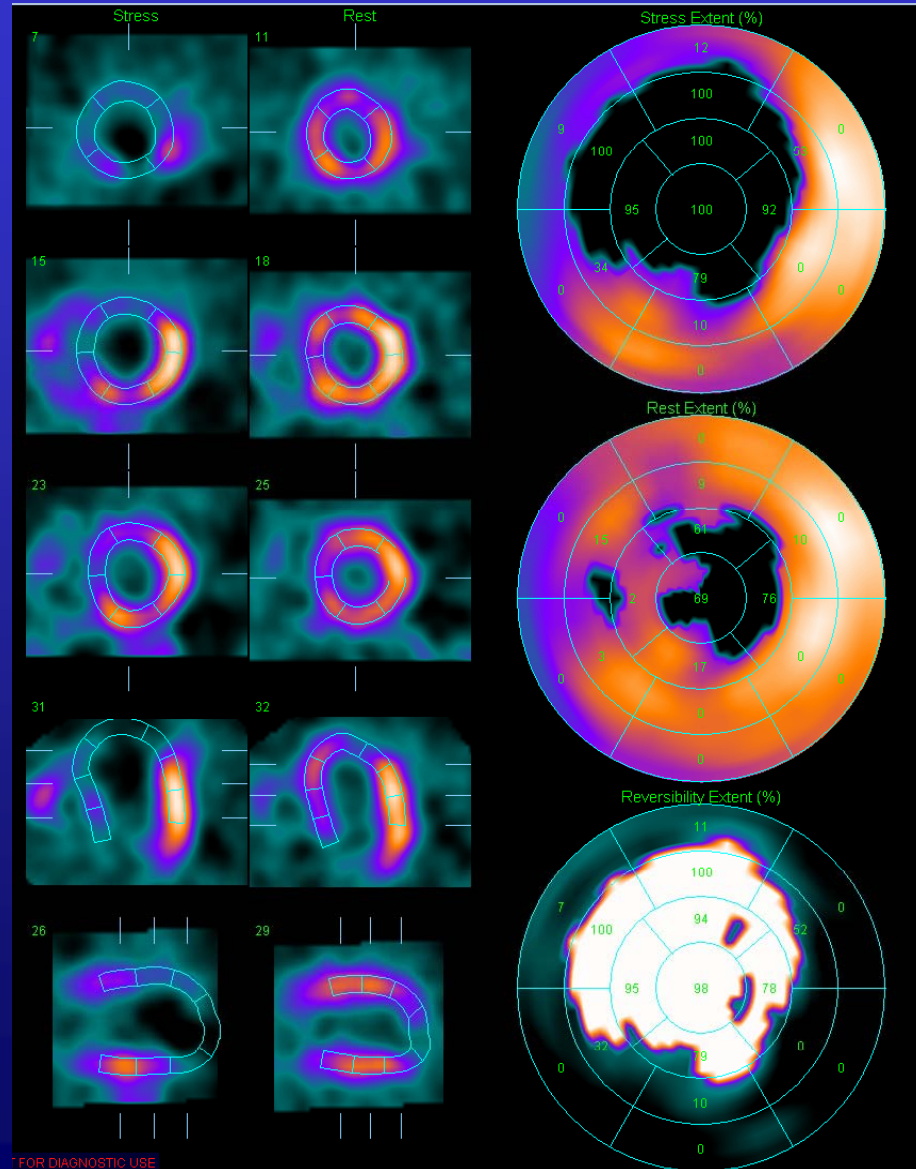
17 segments



# Quantification: Bull's Eye Plot

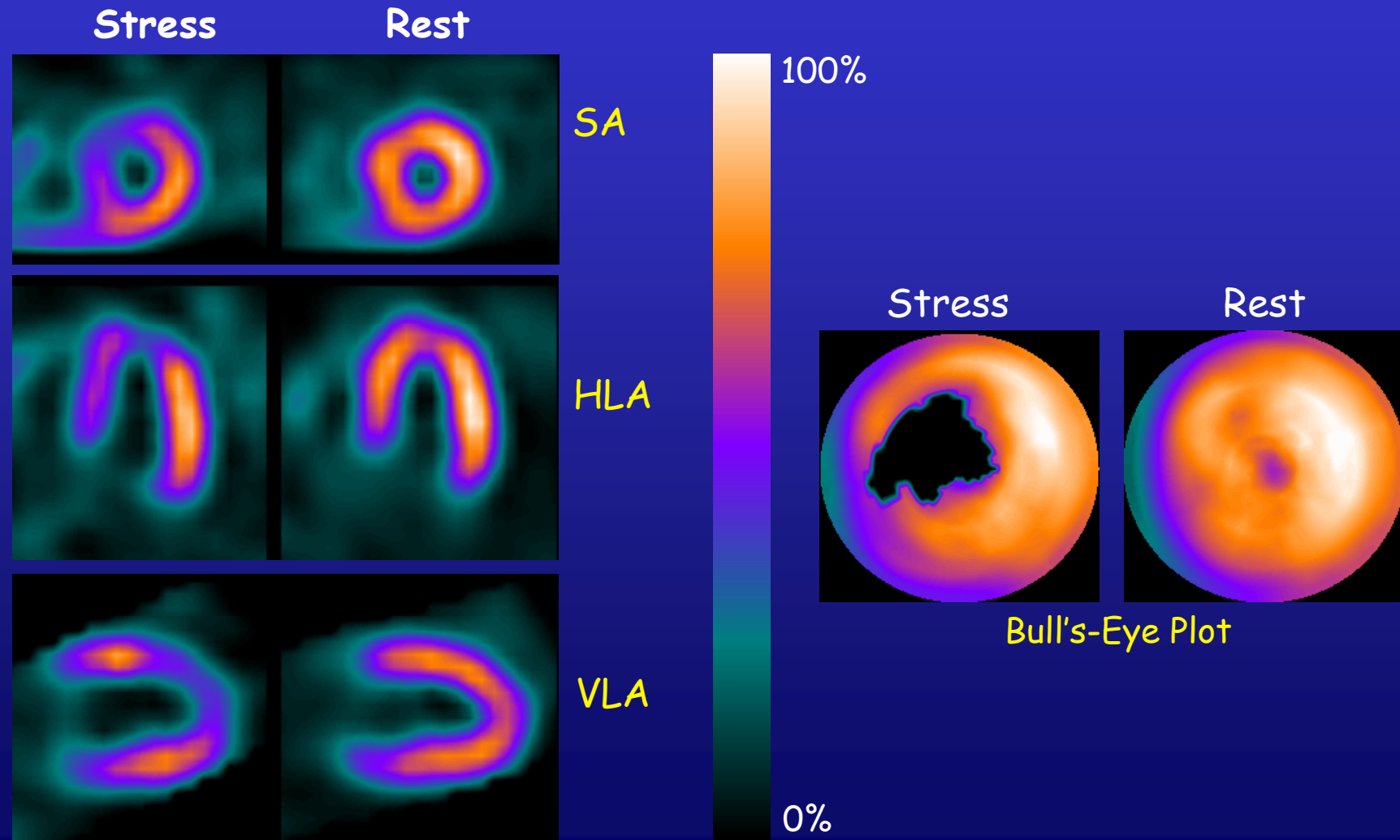


Vascular territories

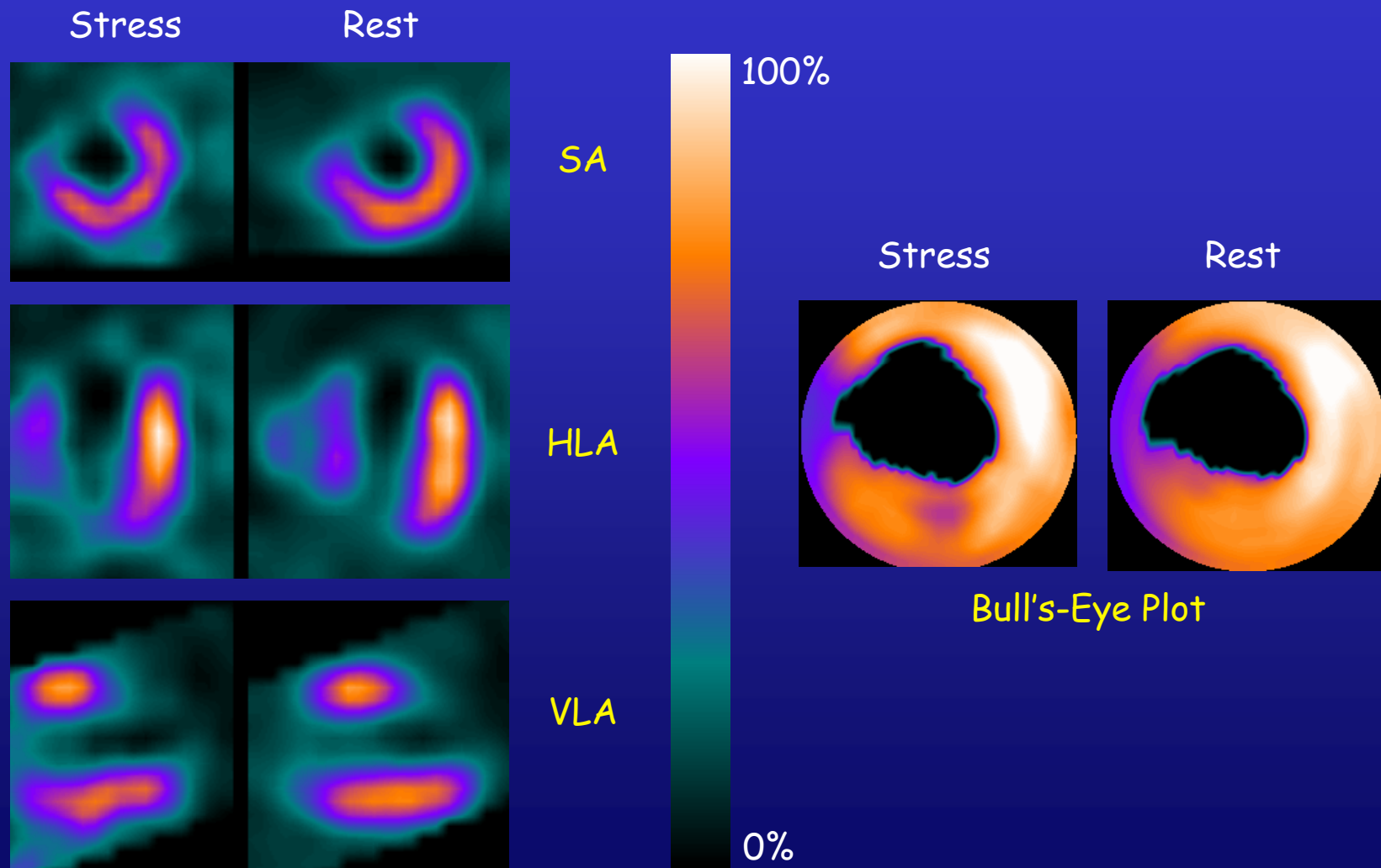


FOR DIAGNOSTIC USE

# Myocardial Perfusion Patterns



# Myocardial Perfusion Patterns



# Quantification

## QGS Cedar Sinai Software

- **Volumes**

Identifies endocardial and epicardial borders  
→ Ellipsoid fitted to endocardial borders

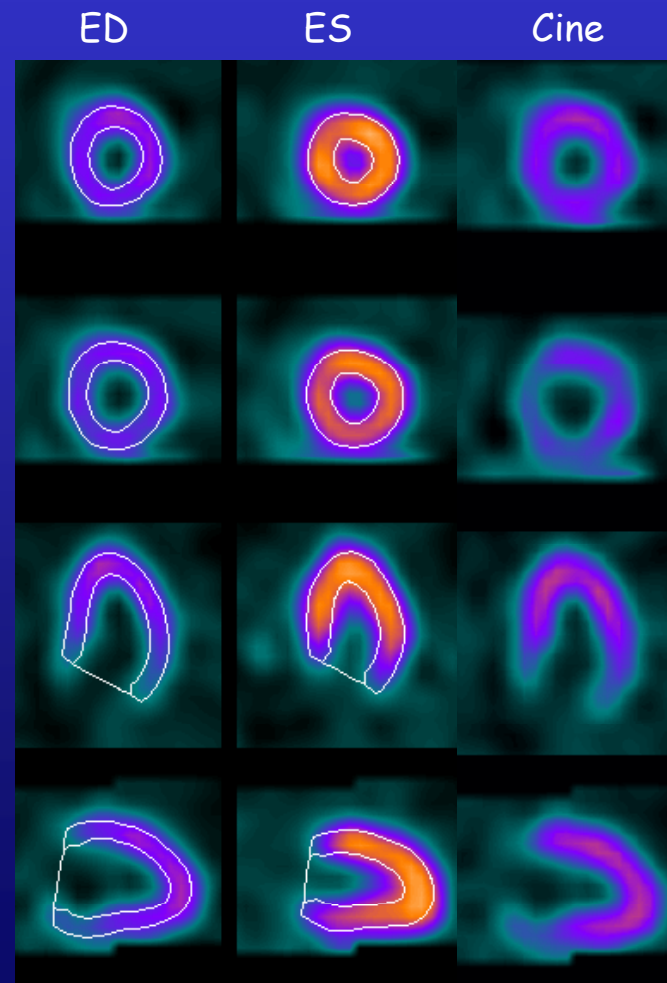
- **Left ventricular volume/ interval curve**

Volume calculated and plotted for each interval  
→ change in volume relative to time

- **LVEF (16-frame gating)**

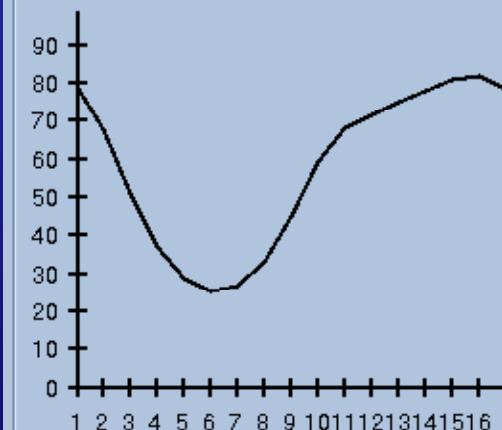
EF =

$EDV - ESV / EDV \times 100$



Volume	37ml [4]
EDV	82ml [16]
ESV	26ml [6]
SV	56ml
EF	69%

Volume (ml) / Interval

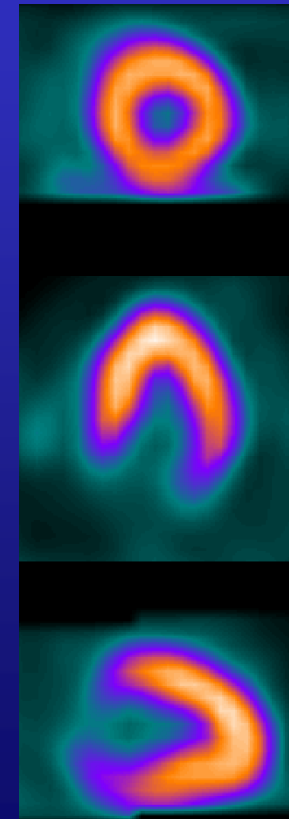




## Procedure guidelines for radionuclide myocardial perfusion imaging

C Anagnostopoulos, M Harbinson, A Kelion, K Kundley, C Y Loong, A Notghi, E Reyes, W Tindale and S R Underwood

- To assess the presence and severity of coronary obstruction
- To aid the management of patients with CAD:
  - Risk stratification and prognosis (e.g. after MI or before non-cardiac surgery)
  - To guide strategies of revascularisation
  - To assess adequacy of revascularisation
- To assess viability and hibernation



Normal Perfusion  
Tetrofosmin MPI

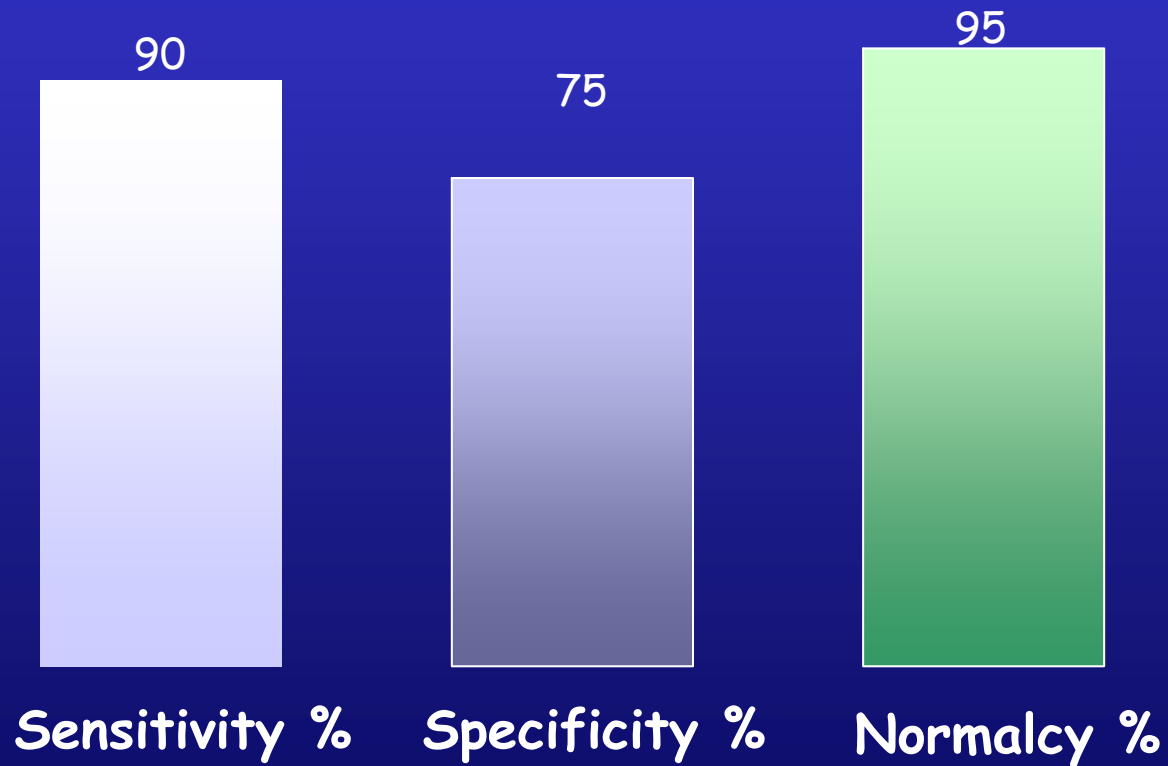


# Indications for MPS

- Special indications:
  - Anomalous coronary arteries
  - Muscle bridging
  - Kawasaki's disease

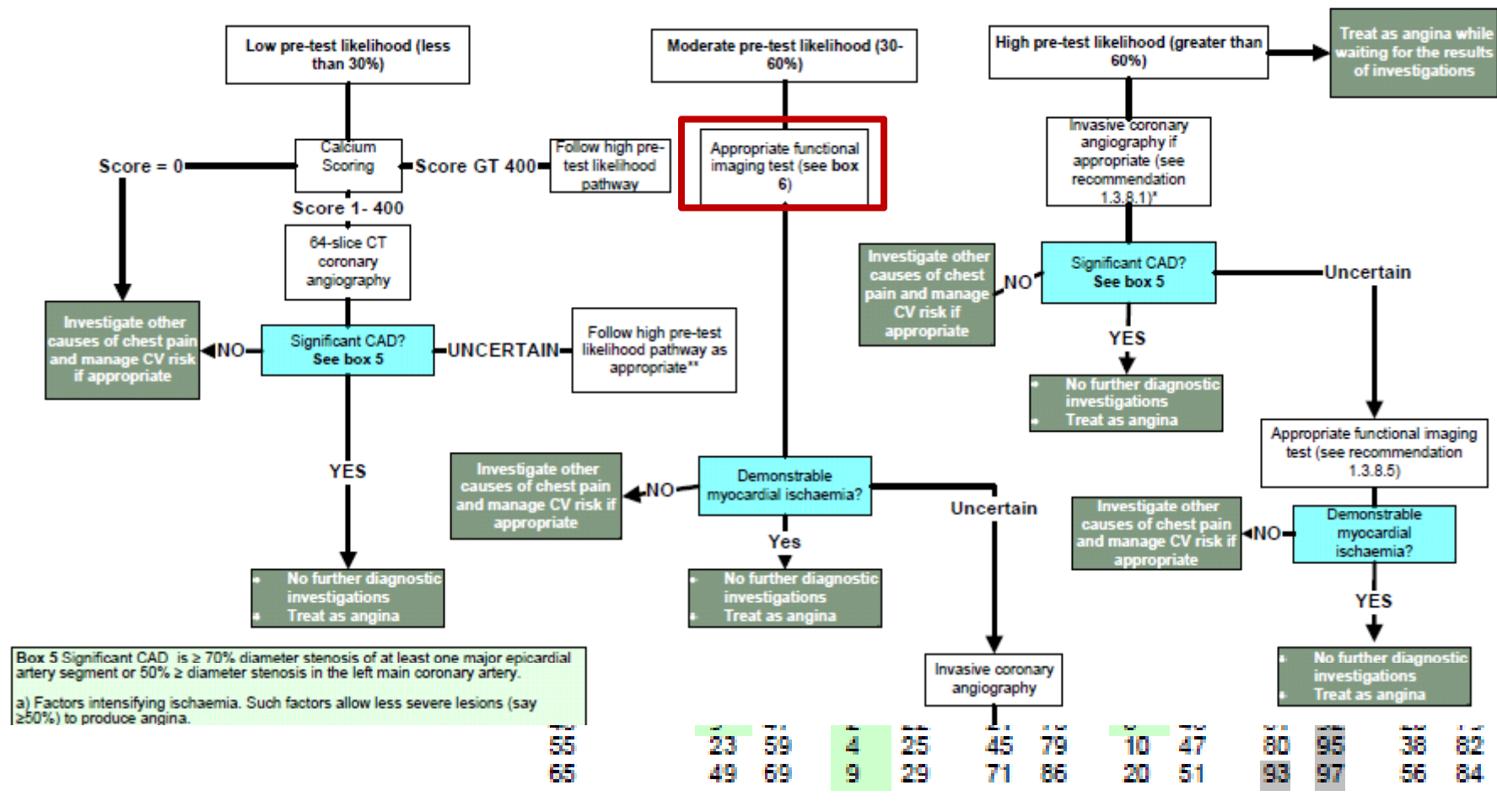
Procedure Guidelines for Radionuclide Myocardial  
Perfusion Imaging. Anagnostopoulos C et al  
Heart 2004;90:Suppl 1

# Diagnostic accuracy of MPS



Loong CY, Heart 2004 (Suppl V) 90:v2

# New NICE Guidelines for Stable Chest Pain

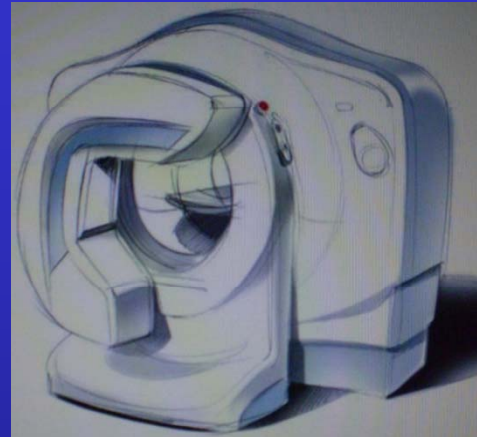


Values are percent with CAD from Duke<sup>40</sup>

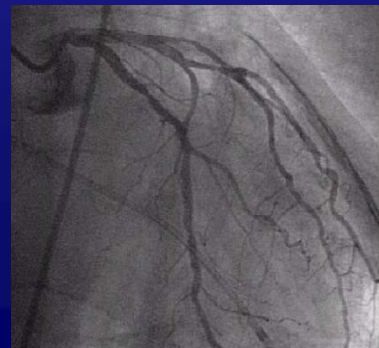
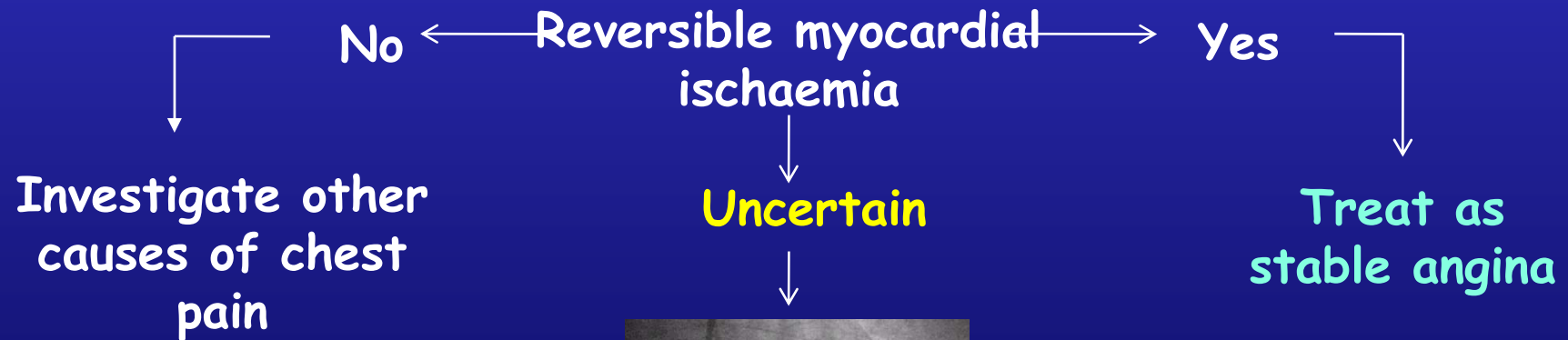
Hi = High risk = smoking, hypertensive diabetic

Lo = Low risk = none of these 3. If there are resting ECG ST-T changes or Q waves, the likelihood of CAD is higher in each cell of the table.

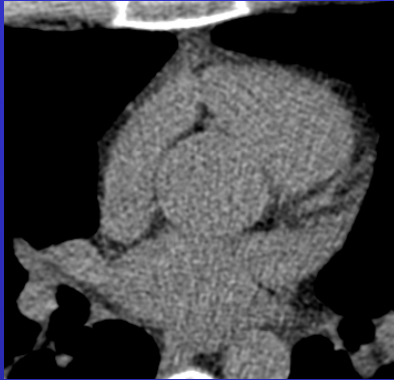
# Intermediate likelihood of CAD



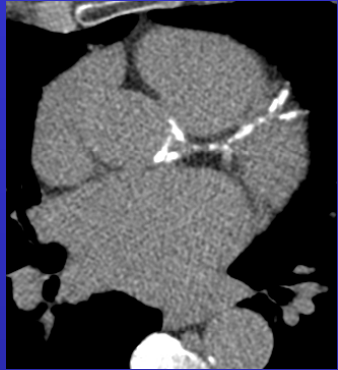
Functional Imaging



Low likelihood of CAD



CT calcium scoring



1 - 400

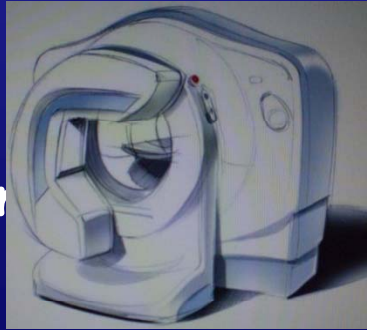
>400

If zero

Investigate other causes of chest pain



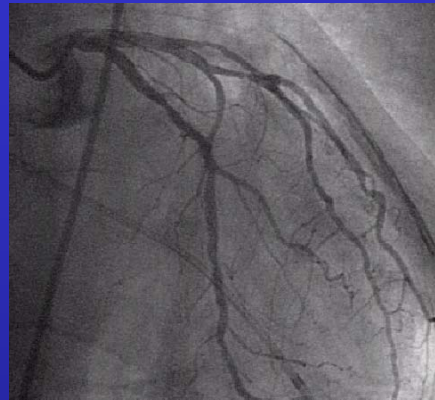
64-slice or above CTA



No Significant CAD Uncertain

Treat as stable angina Yes

# High likelihood of CAD



No

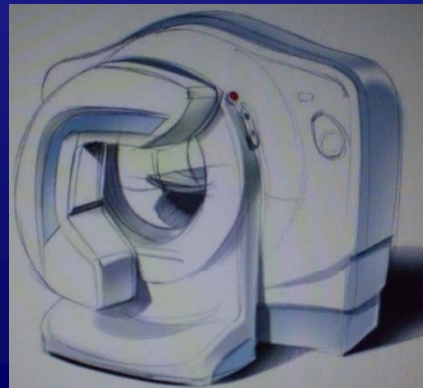
Significant CAD

Yes

Investigate other causes of chest pain

Uncertain

Treat as stable angina



# MPS as gatekeeper to angiography



European Heart Journal (2006) 27, 29–34  
doi:10.1093/eurheartj/ehi503

Clinical research

## Potential impact of myocardial perfusion scintigraphy as gatekeeper for invasive examination and treatment in patients with stable angina pectoris: observational study without post-test referral bias

Poul F. Højlund-Carlsen<sup>1\*</sup>, Allan Johansen<sup>1</sup>, Henrik Wulff Christensen<sup>1</sup>, Werner Vach<sup>2</sup>, Mette Møldrup<sup>1</sup>, Peter Bartram<sup>1</sup>, Annegrete Veje<sup>1</sup>, and Torben Haghfelt<sup>3</sup> for the Myocardial Ischemia Logistics Evaluation Study (MILES) Group

<sup>1</sup>Department of Nuclear Medicine, Odense University Hospital, Odense, Denmark; <sup>2</sup>Department of Statistics, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark; and <sup>3</sup>Department of Cardiology, Odense University Hospital, Odense, Denmark



European Heart Journal (2006) 27, 3–4  
doi:10.1093/eurheartj/ehi627

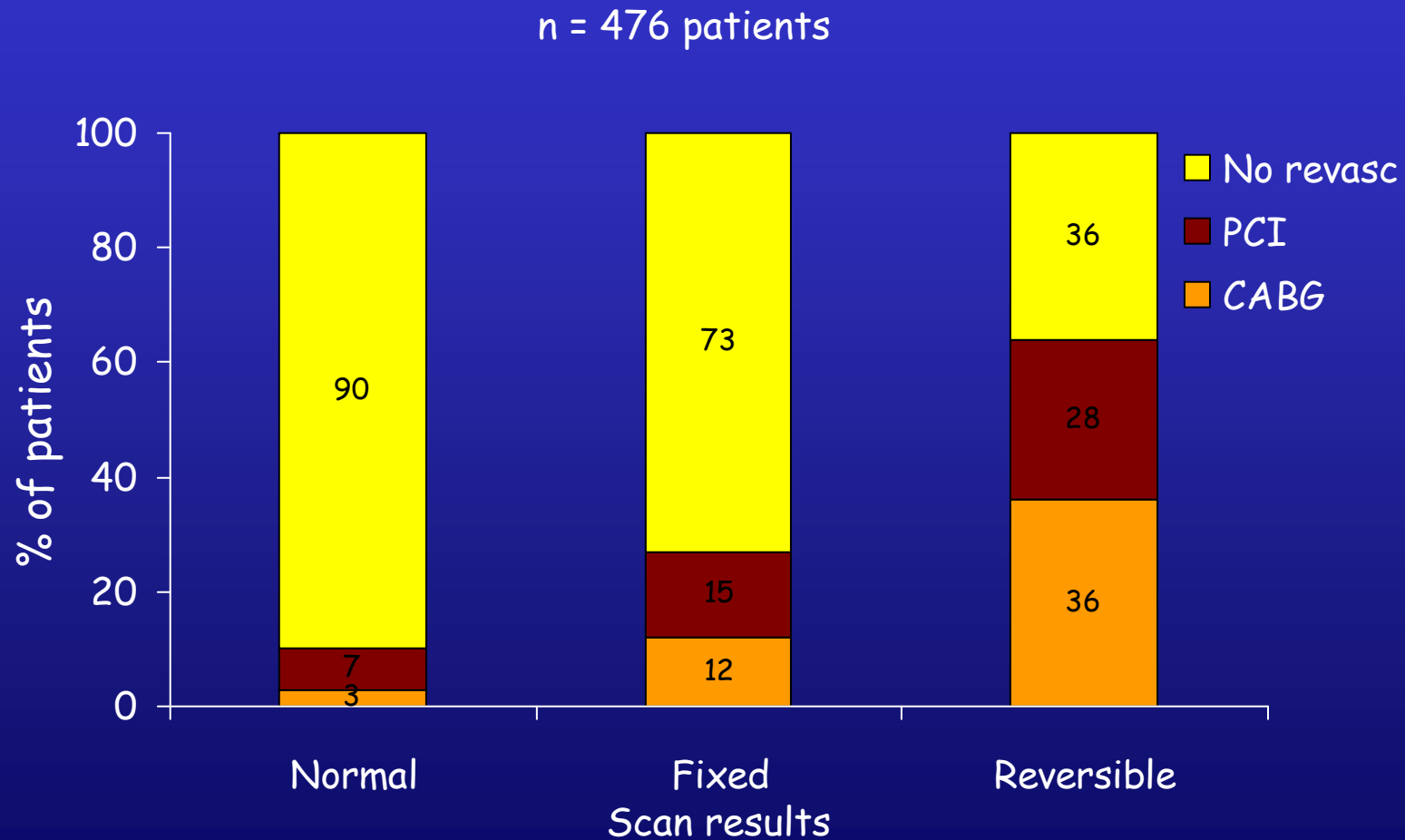
Editorial

## Myocardial perfusion scintigraphy: an important step between clinical assessment and coronary angiography in patients with stable chest pain

Eliana Reyes and Stephen Richard Underwood\*

Imperial College, National Heart and Lung Institute, London, UK and Royal Brompton Hospital, Sydney Street, London SW3 6NP, UK

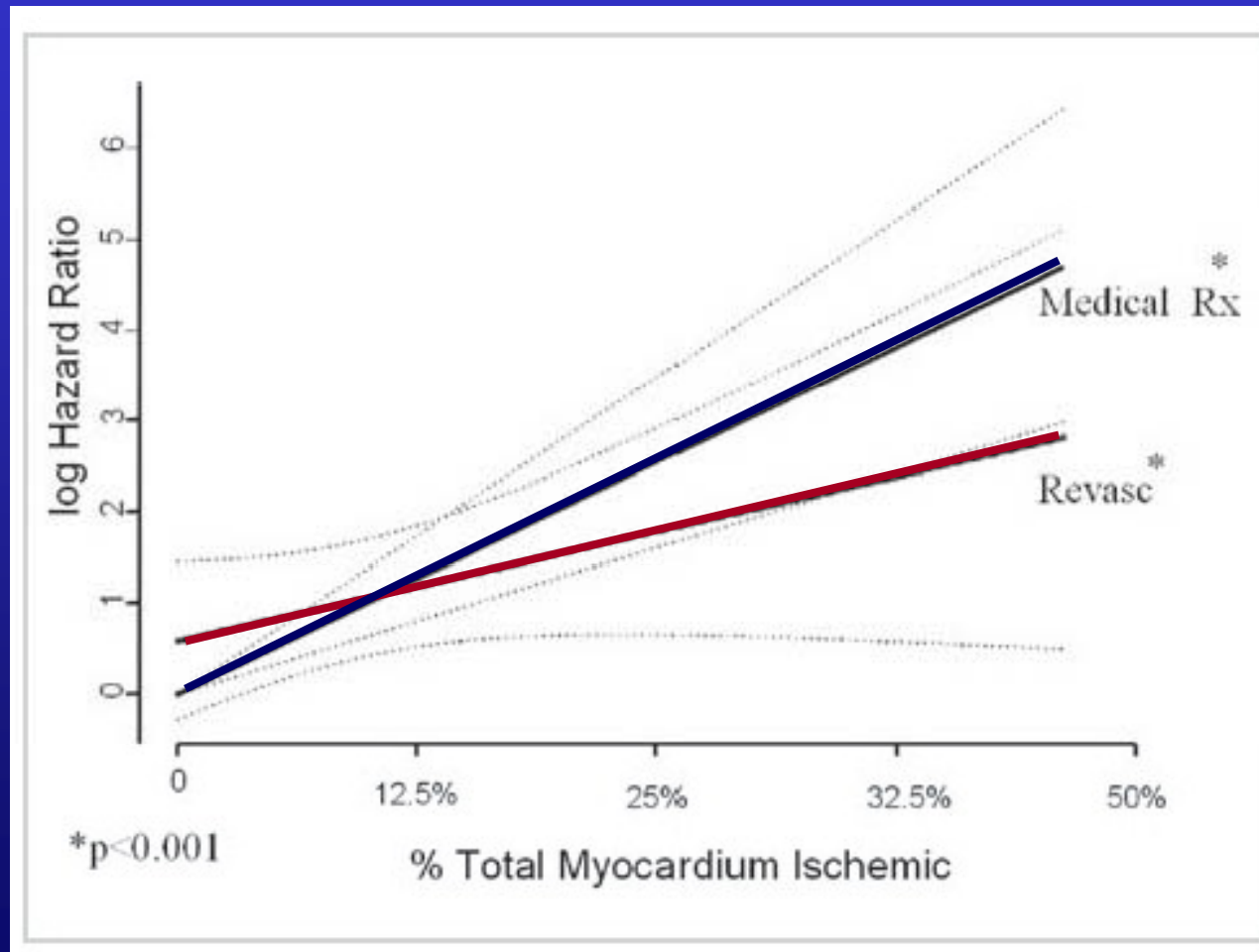
# MPS as gatekeeper to angiography



Hoiland-Carlsen et al. Eur Heart J 2006; 27:29

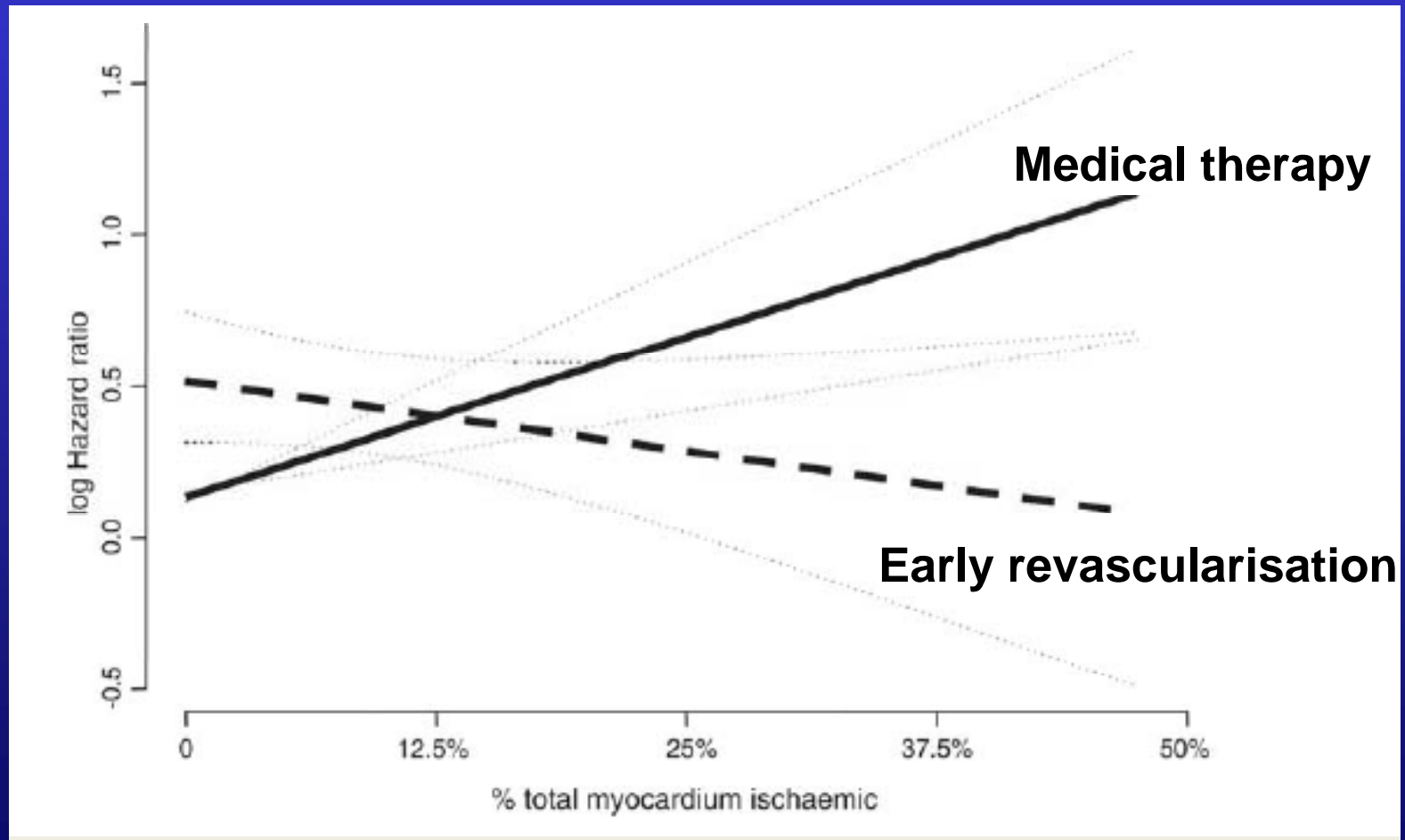


# MPS-guided therapy and prognosis



Hachamovitch. *Circulation* 2003;107:2900

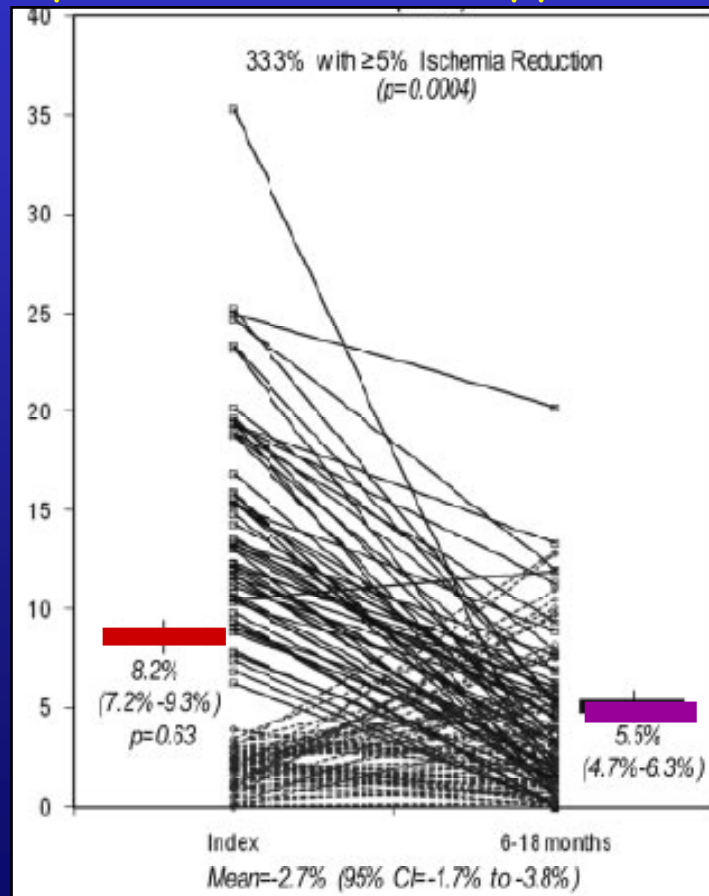
# MPS-guided therapy and prognosis



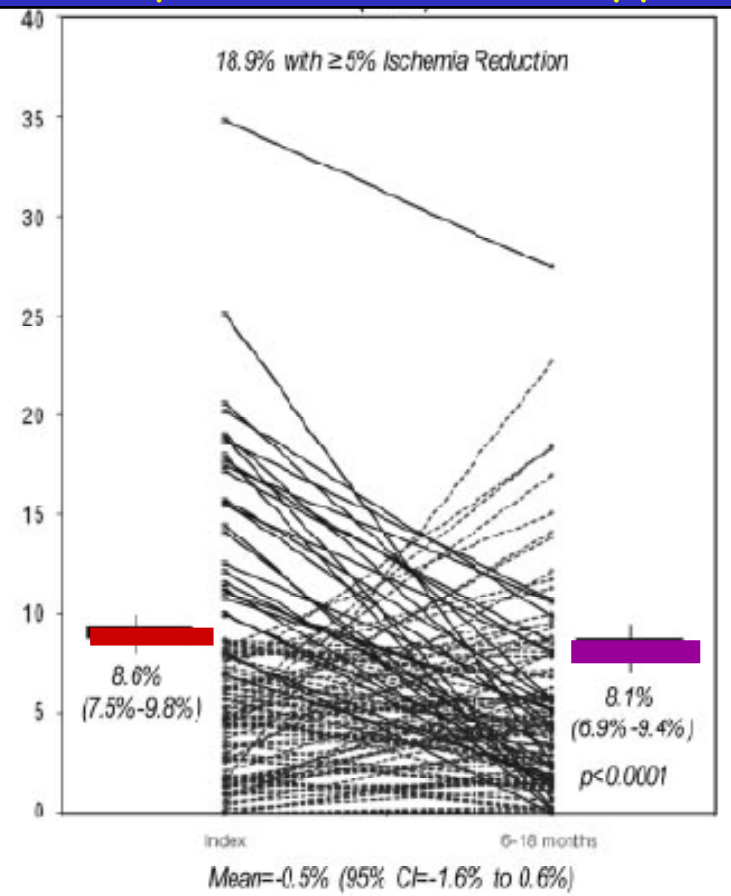
Hachamovitch. European Heart Journal 2011

# COURAGE trial, nuclear sub-study

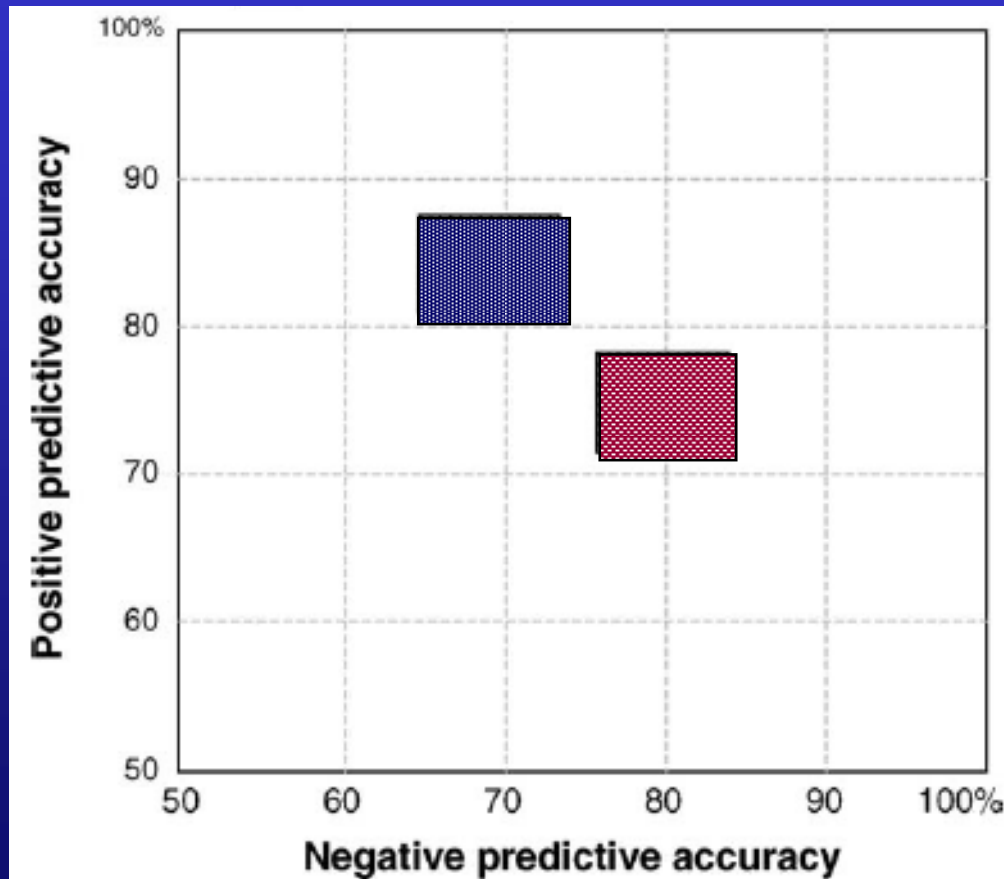
## Optimal medical therapy and PCI



## Optimal medical therapy





# Viability assessment



Echo  
Nuclear

SR Underwood et al. Eur Heart J 2004;25:815

Indication	Test	Class	Evidence	Society
Viability assessment in CAD patients with HF without angina	Non-invasive imaging	Ila	B	
Prediction of improvement in regional and global LV function	MPS PET	I	B	

**I = strong; II = conflicting evidence; III = not in favor  
A= high; B= intermediate; C= consensus**

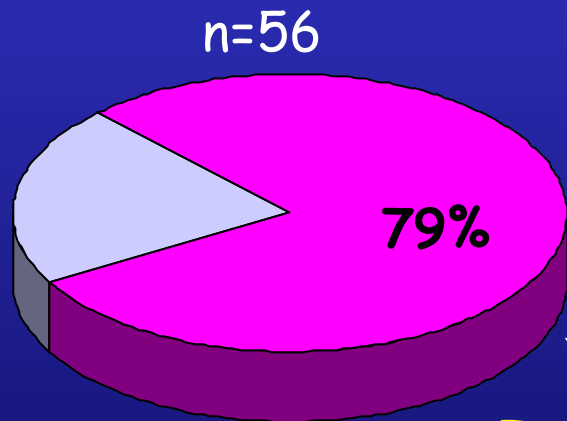
**ESC and ACC/AHA Guidelines for Diagnosis and Management of Heart Failure 2008 & 2009**

**ACC/AHA/ASNC Guidelines for Clinical Use of Cardiac Radionuclide Imaging 2009**

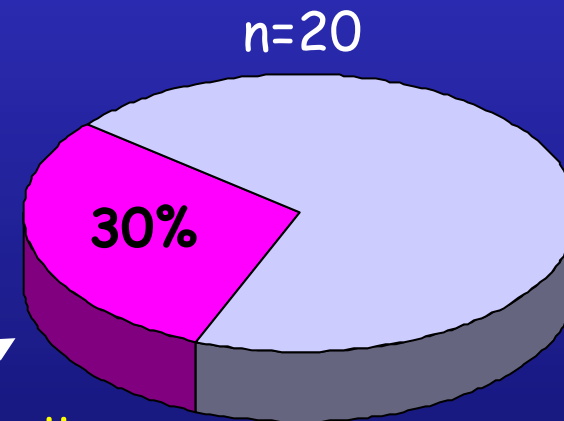
# Hibernation - the need for ischaemia

N=100 regions with abnormal thickening pre-op

Reversible/ischaemic regions



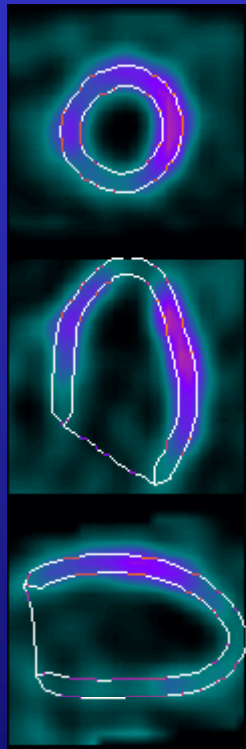
Mild to moderate fixed defect/partial-thickness infarction



Improved regional wall thickening post revascularisation  $p < 0.001$

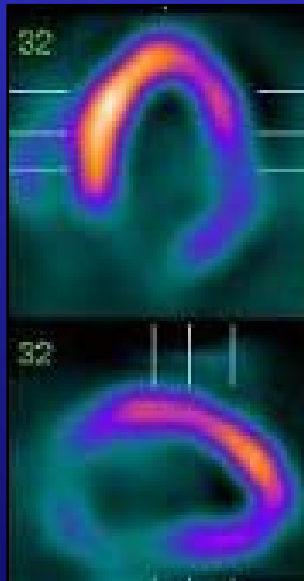
# Defining Hibernation

- Dysfunctional at rest



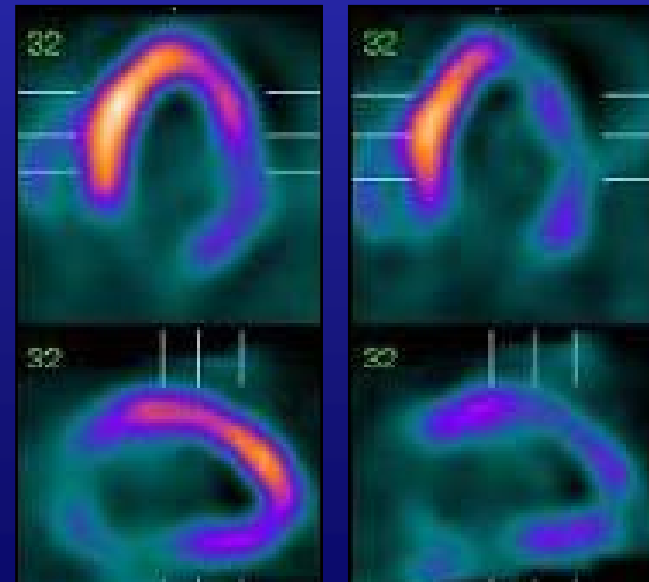
LVEDV 215ml  
LVEF 30%

- Viable



Rest

- Ischaemic with stress



Rest

Stress

# Prediction of Recovery of LV Function

	Patients, n	Sensitivity, Mean (95% CI)	Specificity, Mean (95% CI)	PPV, Mean (95% CI)	NPV, Mean (95% CI)
<b>Conventional nuclear</b>					
<sup>99m</sup> Tc-sestamibi <sup>60</sup>	19	71 (51–91)	40 (18–62)	...	...
SPECT FDG <sup>63,70</sup>	94	86 (79–93)	93 (88–98)	...	...
<sup>201</sup> Tl rest, reinjection <sup>22,62,63,65</sup>	211	84 (79–89)	70 (64–76)	97 (92–100)	93 (86–100)
<sup>201</sup> Tl rest redistribution + FDG <sup>64</sup>	47	86 (76–96)	92 (84–100)	90 (81–99)	89 (80–98)
<b>Total</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>84 (80–88)</b>	<b>77 (73–81)</b>	<b>94 (89–98)</b>	<b>91 (85–97)</b>
<b>Echocardiography</b>					
DSE <sup>22,60,62,63,65,66,72</sup>	408	76 (71–80)	81 (77–85)	84 (77–91)	91 (85–96)
DSE + strain rate <sup>66</sup>	55	67 (55–79)	89 (81–97)	...	...
End-diastolic wall thickness <sup>22</sup>	43	63 (49–77)	68 (54–82)	...	...
<b>Total</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>74 (70–77)</b>	<b>81 (77–84)</b>	<b>84 (77–91)</b>	<b>91 (85–96)</b>
<b>PET</b>					
FDG <sup>49,70</sup>	205	81 (75–86)	65 (59–72)	...	...
<b>Total</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>81 (75–86)</b>	<b>65 (59–72)</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>

PPV indicates positive predictive value; NPV, negative predictive accuracy.

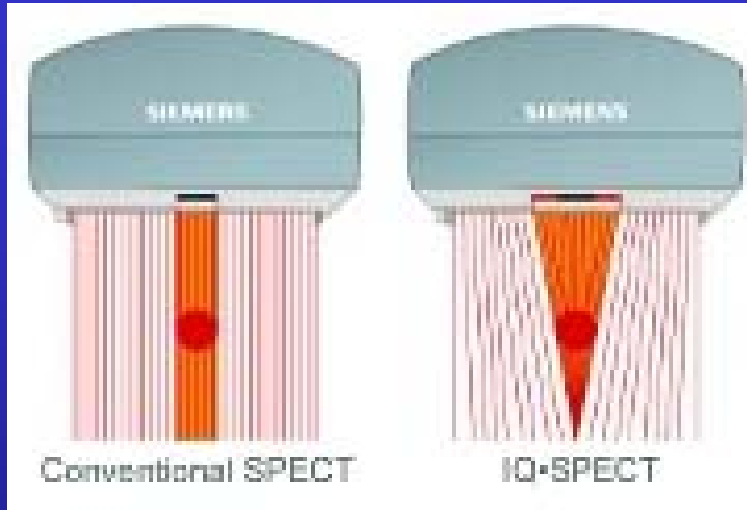
**Camici. Circulation 2008;117:103**



What is new?



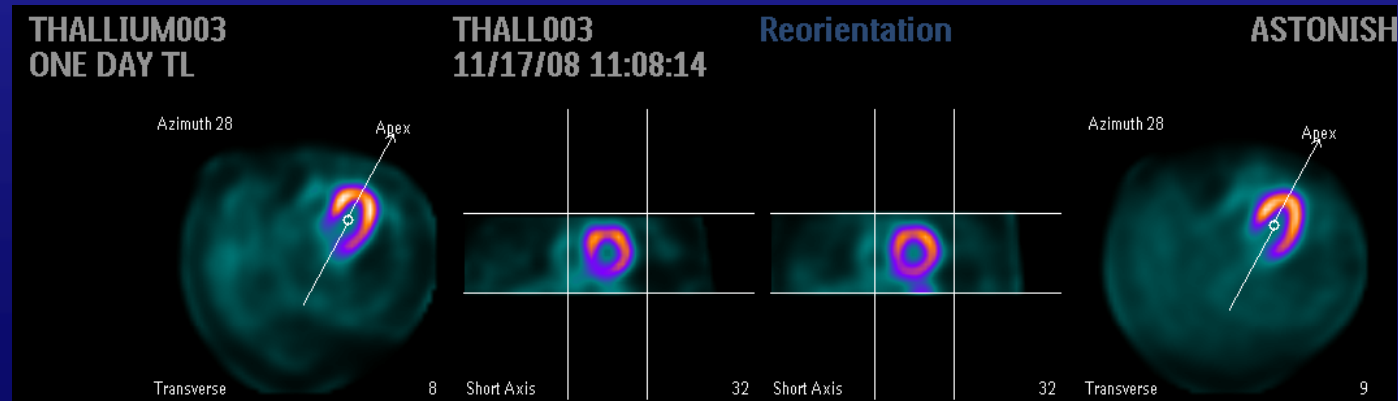
# Innovations 2011



Conventional SPECT    IQ SPECT

Novel collimator technology

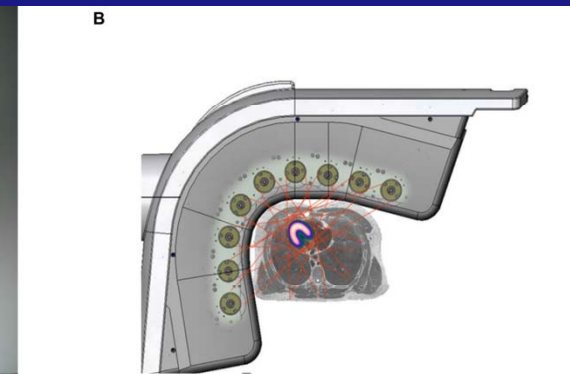
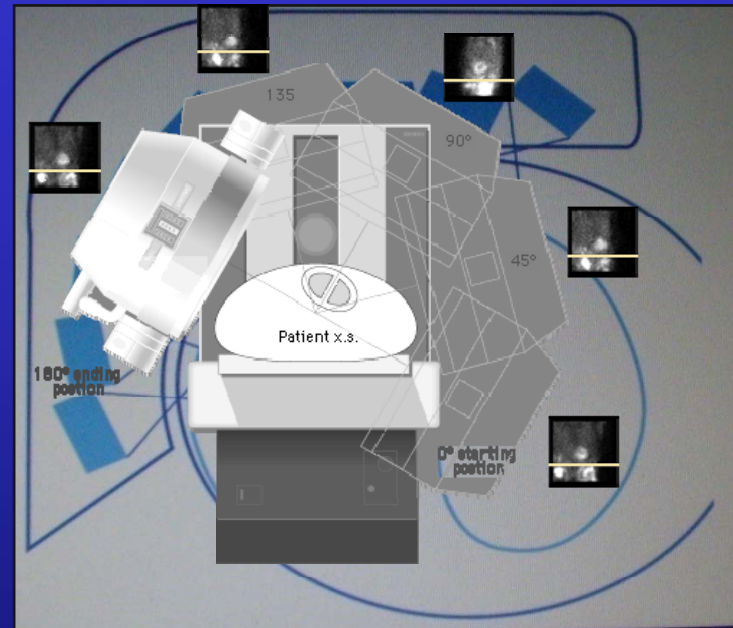
Iterative reconstruction with Resolution Recovery



# Next Generation Scanners

## Cadmium Zinc Telluride (CZT) Detectors

- Focus pin-hole collimation
  - 3D reconstruction
  - Stationary data acquisition
- Acquisition time 3-5 minutes
  - Global and regional MBF in ml/min/g of tissue



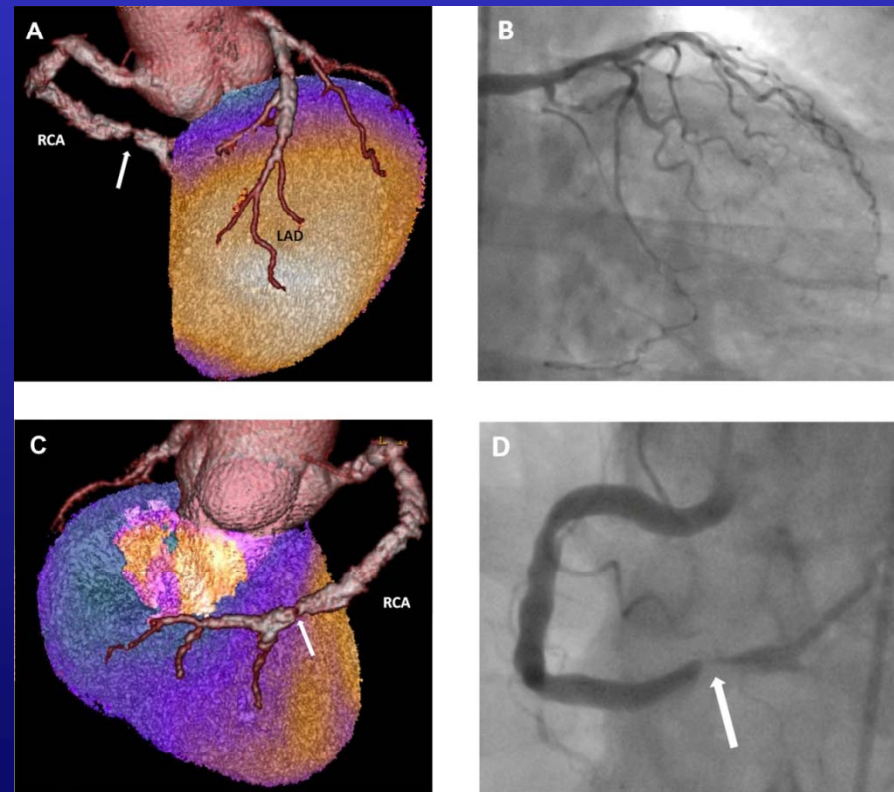
# Combined imaging: MPS/CTA

- Separate systems:
  - Side by side interpretation
  - Software-based fusion
- Hybrid systems

*European Society of Nuclear Medicine*

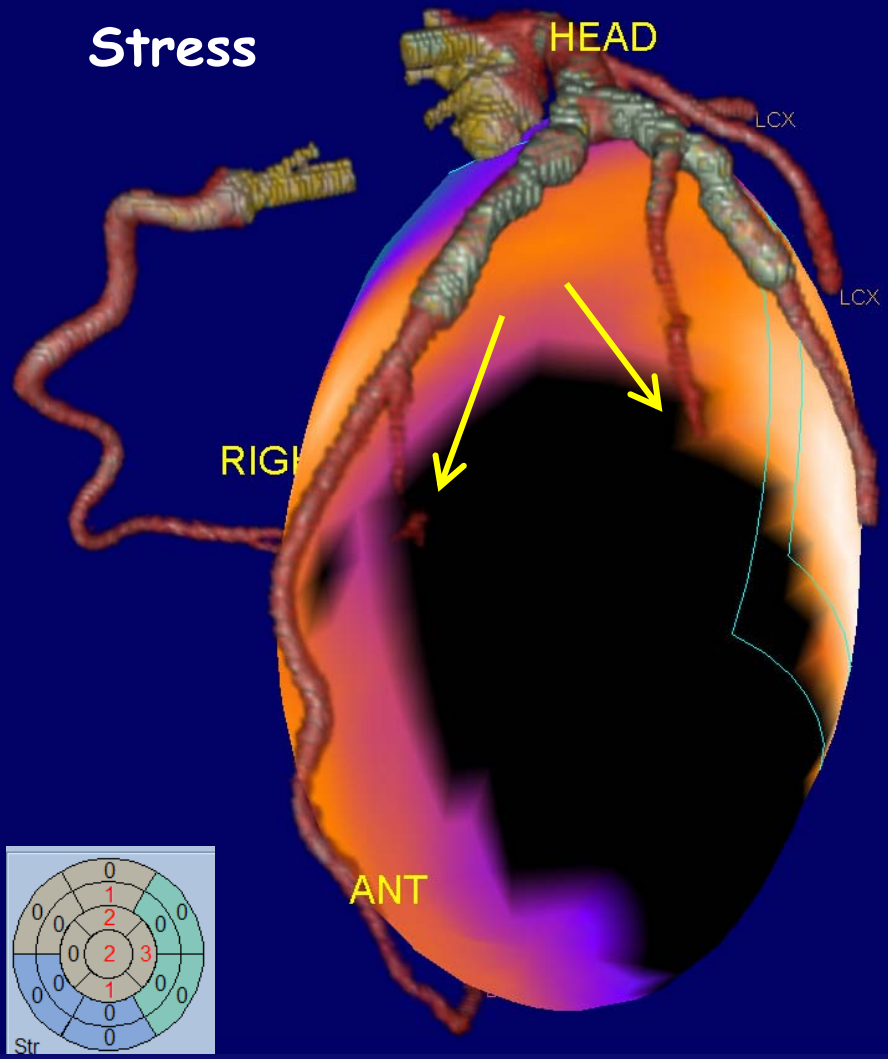
***Position statement:***

***"Fusion has incremental value over stand-alone imaging"***

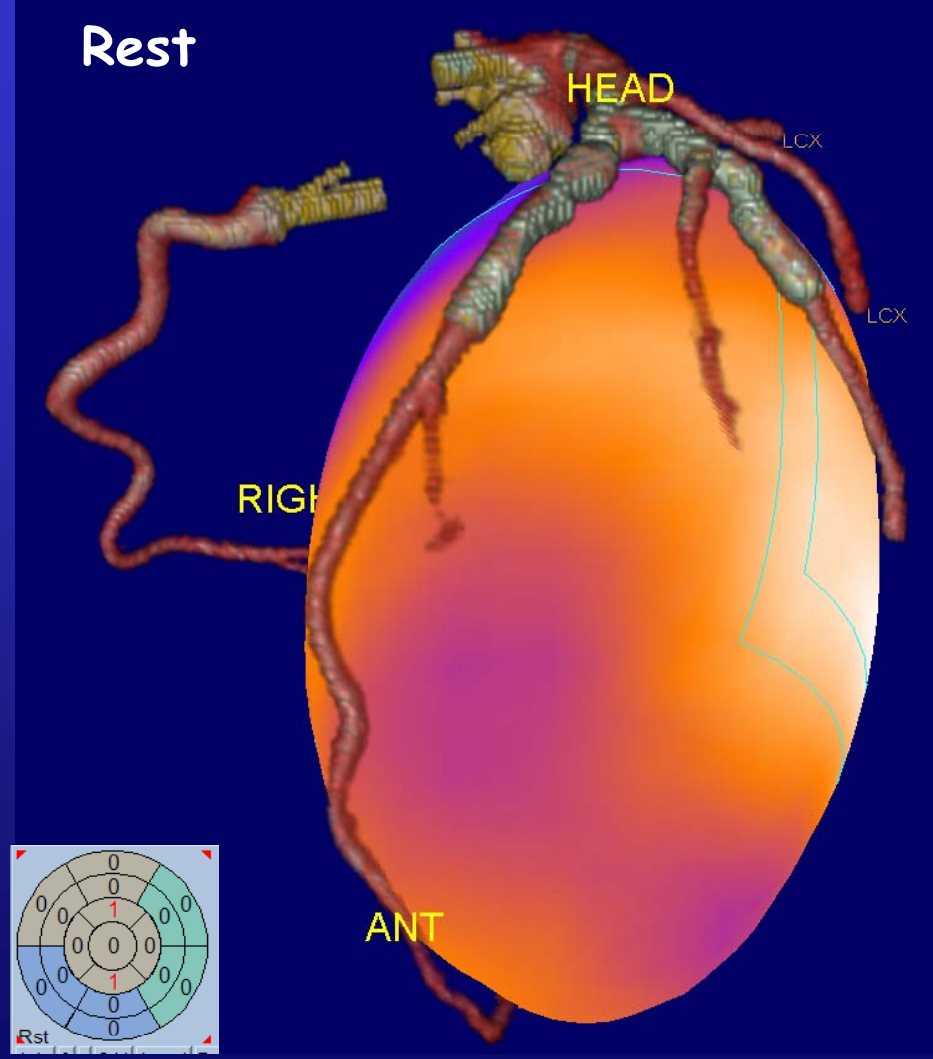


Courtesy of Dr Liz Prvulovich, UCL London

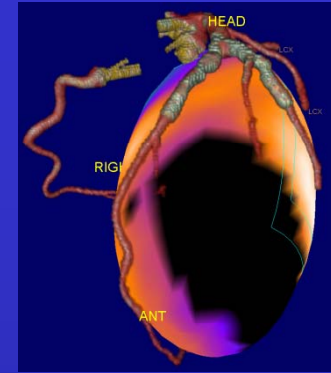
Stress



Rest



# MPS+CTA or Fusion?



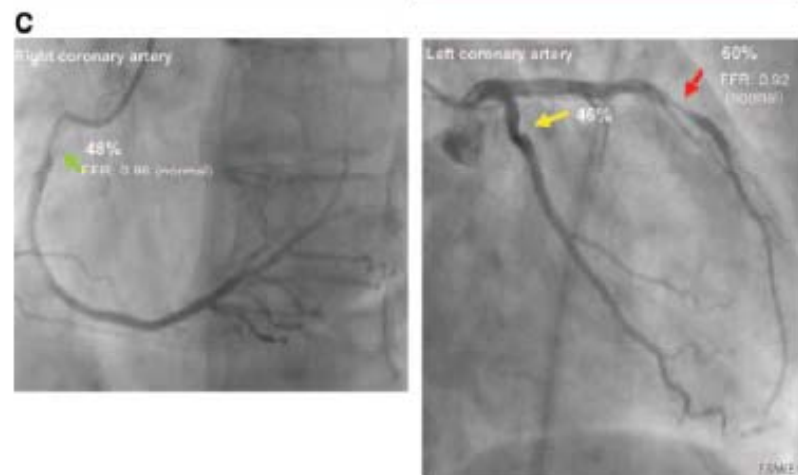
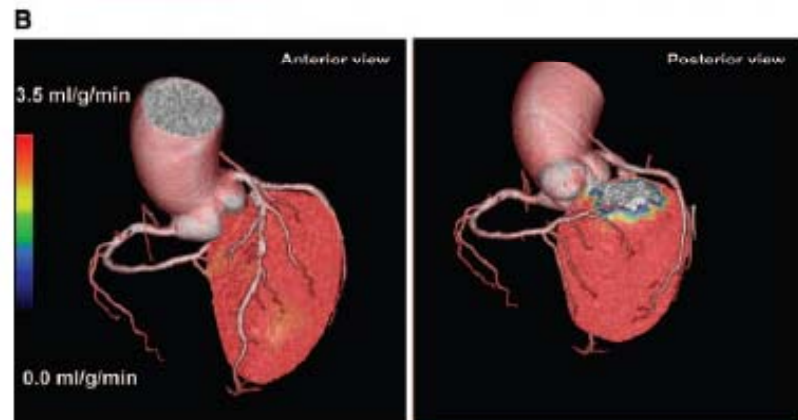
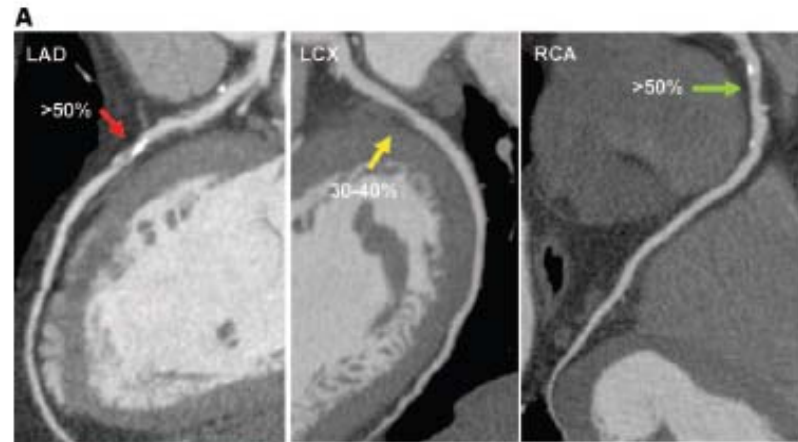
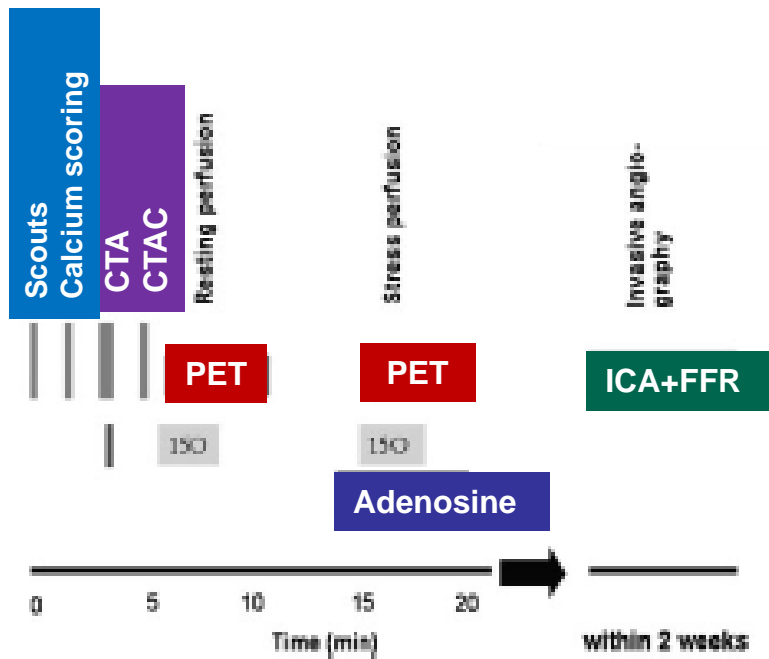
Anatomic target	MPI	<i>P</i>	MPI+CTA	<i>P</i>	MPI-CTA fusion
CAD, global assessment	0.75	NS	0.81	0.02	0.88*
LAD coronary artery	0.59	0.03	0.70	0.006	0.81†

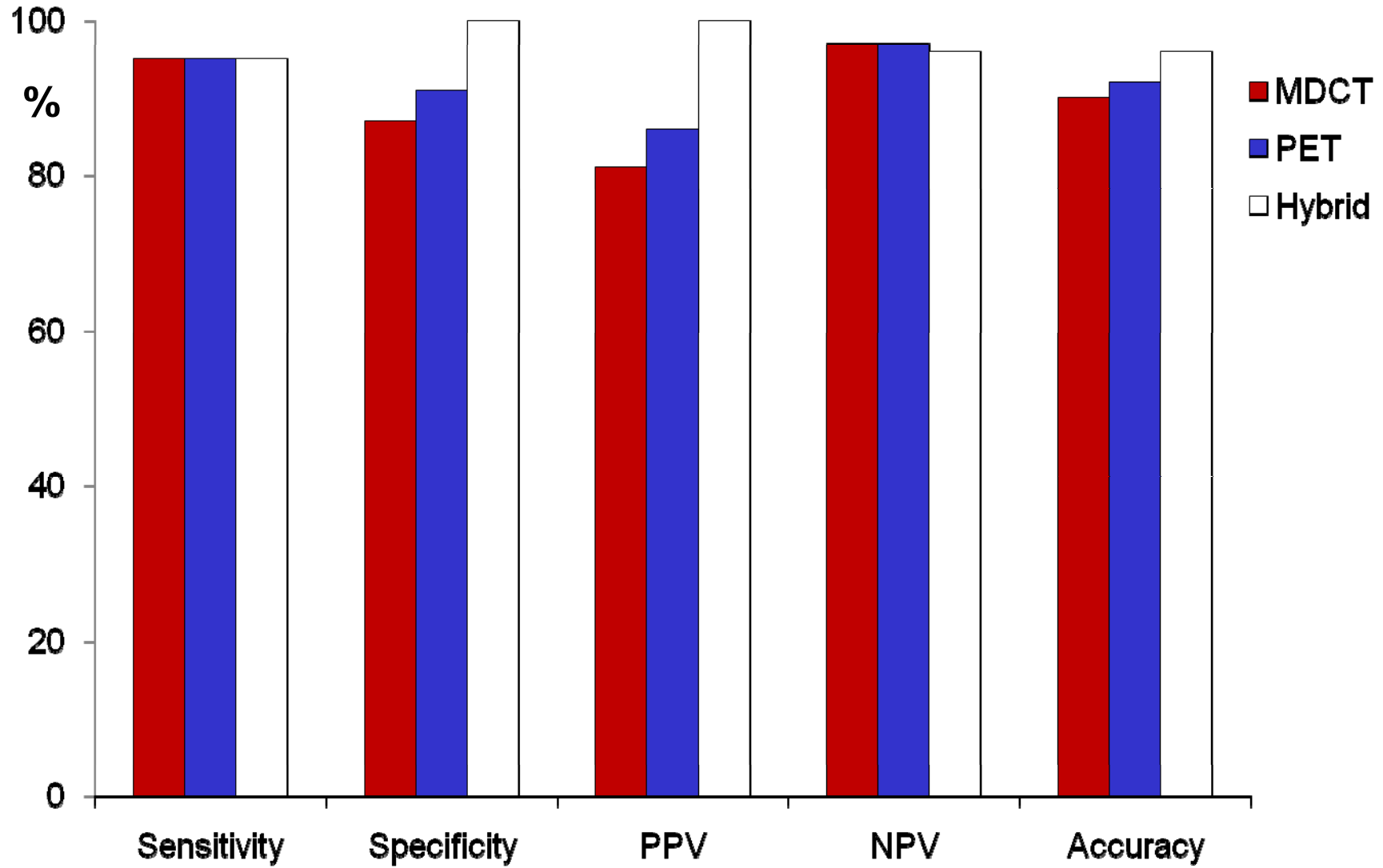
\* 0.005 vs MPI

† < 0.0001 vs  
MPI

Santana CA et al. Society of Nuclear Medicine  
2007 annual meeting; June 2007; Washington, DC

# Study Protocol





Kajander and Knuuti. *Circulation* 2010;122:603