

# CT-FFR: Is There Still a Role for Nuclear Stress Testing

**Sabahat Bokhari, MD**

**Professor of Medicine**

**Director of Advanced Cardiac Imaging**

**Director of Amyloidosis and Cardiomyopathy Center**

**Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School**

**Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital**

# Disclosure Information

## **Consultant/advisory board:**

- *Pfizer*
- *Alnylam*

## **• Speakers bureau:**

- *Pfizer*
- *Astellas*
- *Alnylam*

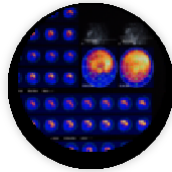
# IT'S TIME TO REWRITE THE PATIENT PATHWAY

Conventional methods...

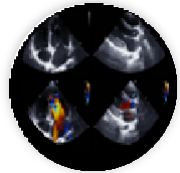
lead to:



Stress EKG



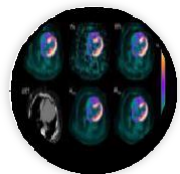
PET



Stress Echo



Direct to Cath



SPECT

**20-30%**

**FALSE NEGATIVES**  
that lead to undetected  
disease<sup>1</sup>

**55%**

**FALSE POSITIVES**  
that lead to unnecessary  
procedures<sup>2</sup>



Layered Testing  
Delays in Treatment



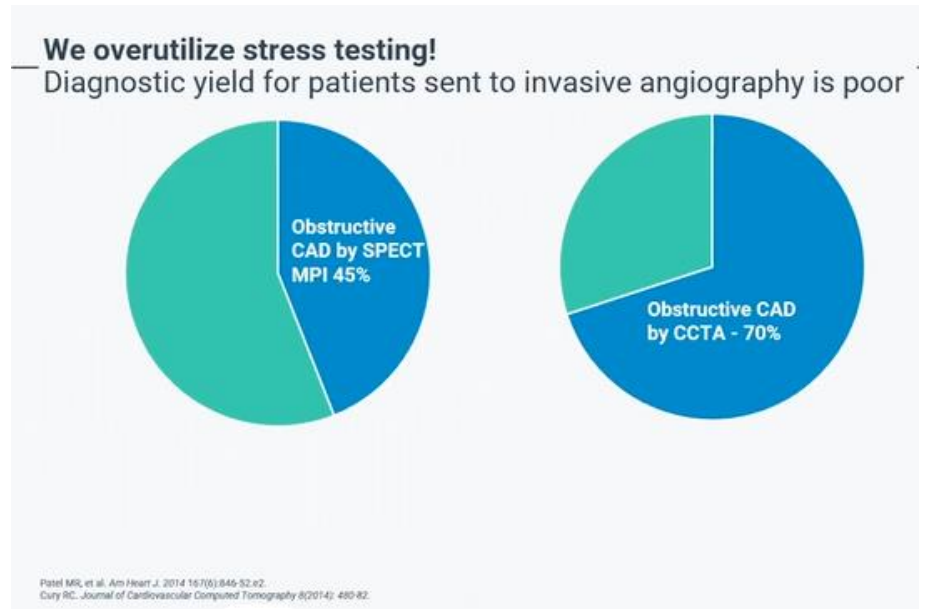
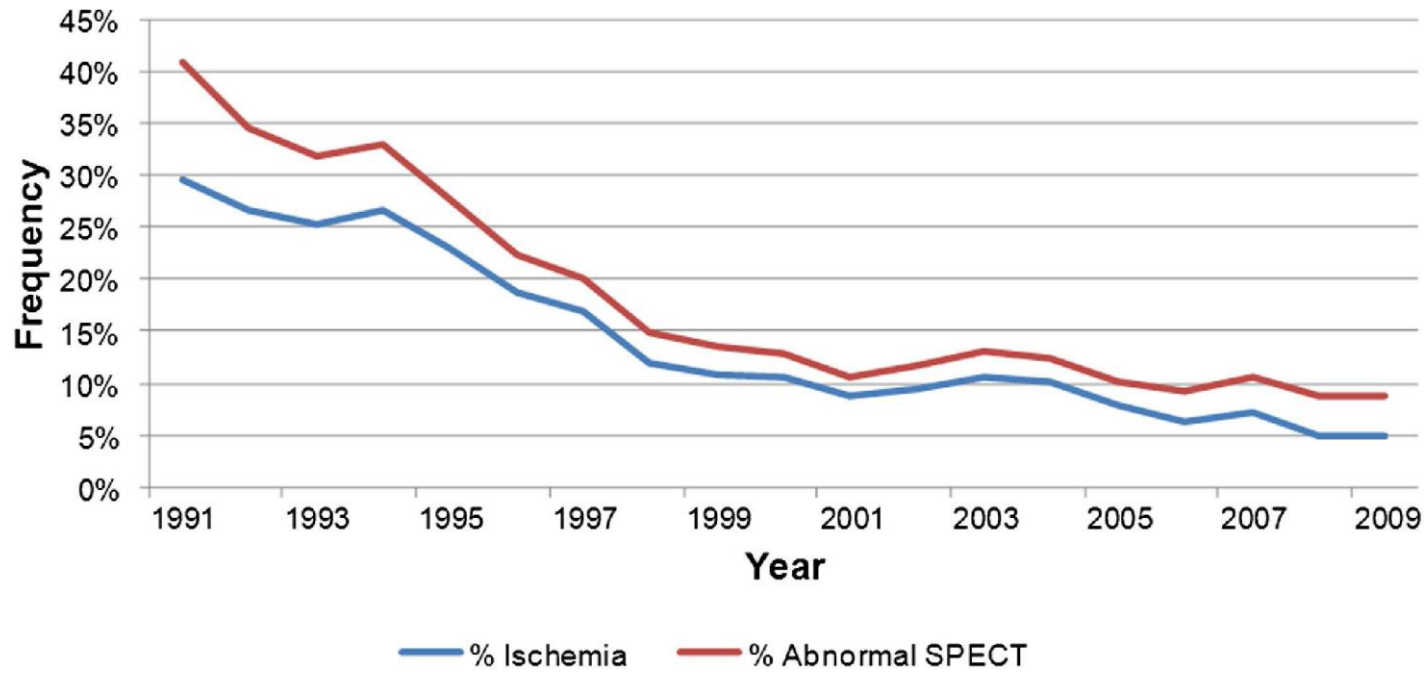
Increased risk  
of complications



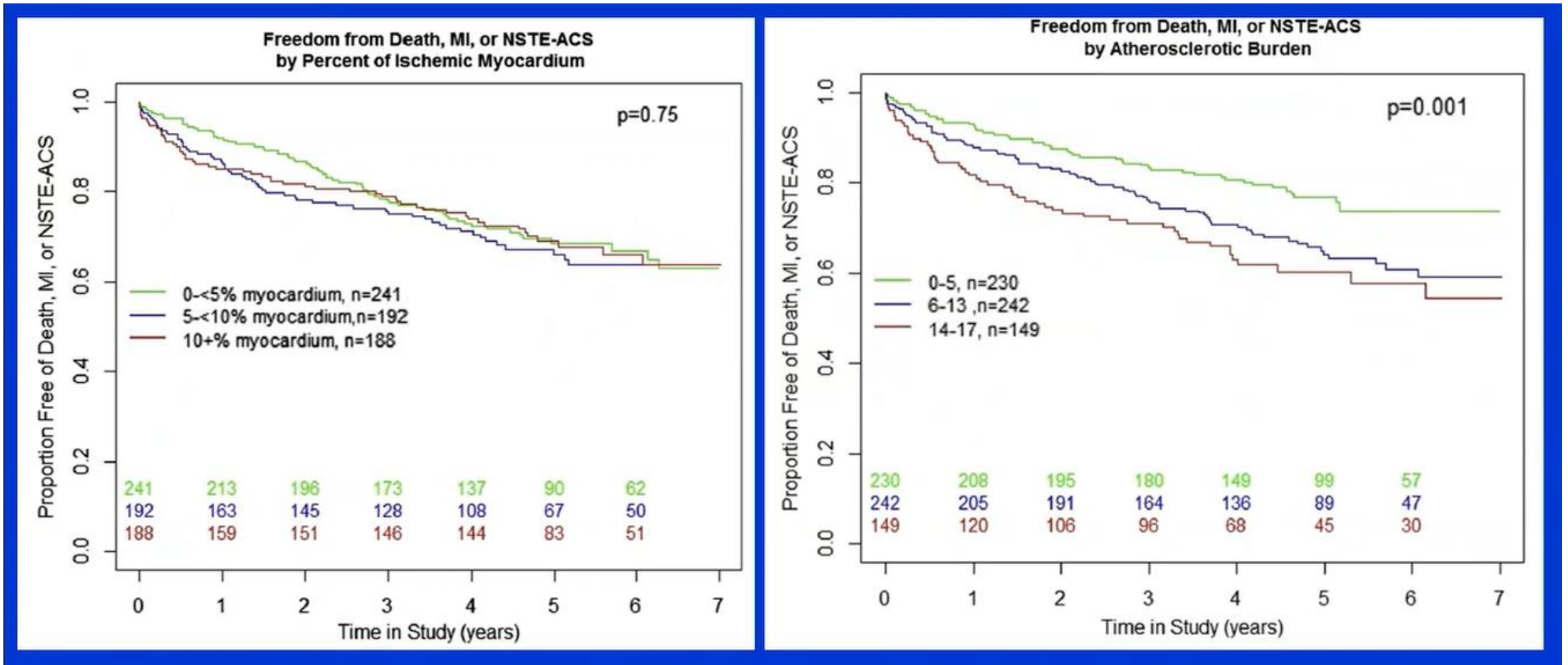
Poor Patient Experience



Increased cost to  
healthcare system

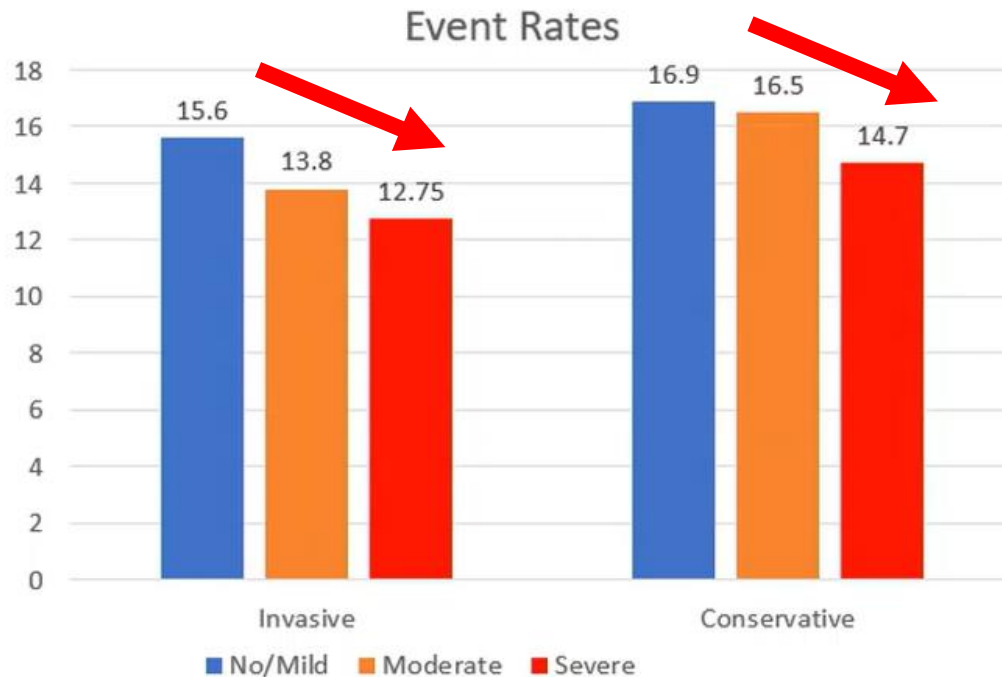


# Courage Trial



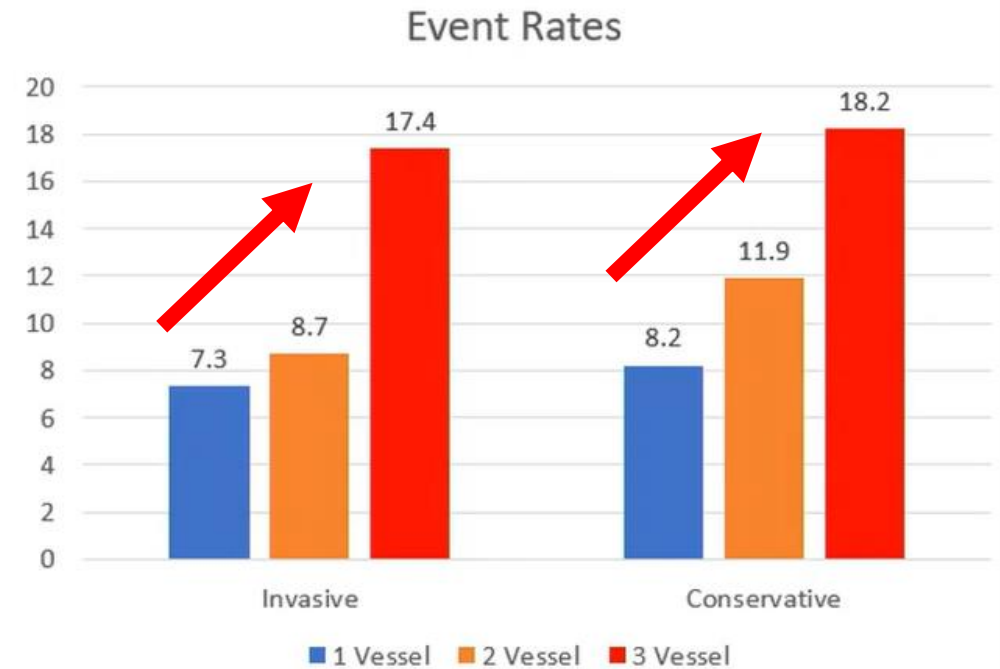
# ISCHEMIA TRIAL

## Degree of Baseline Ischemia



**P=0.04**

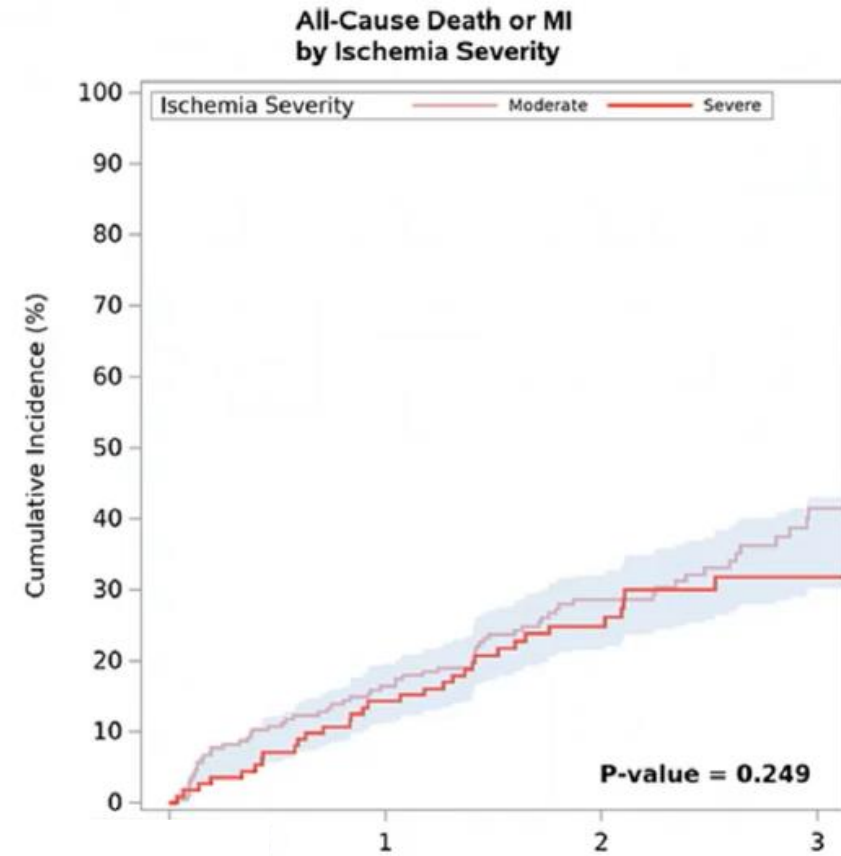
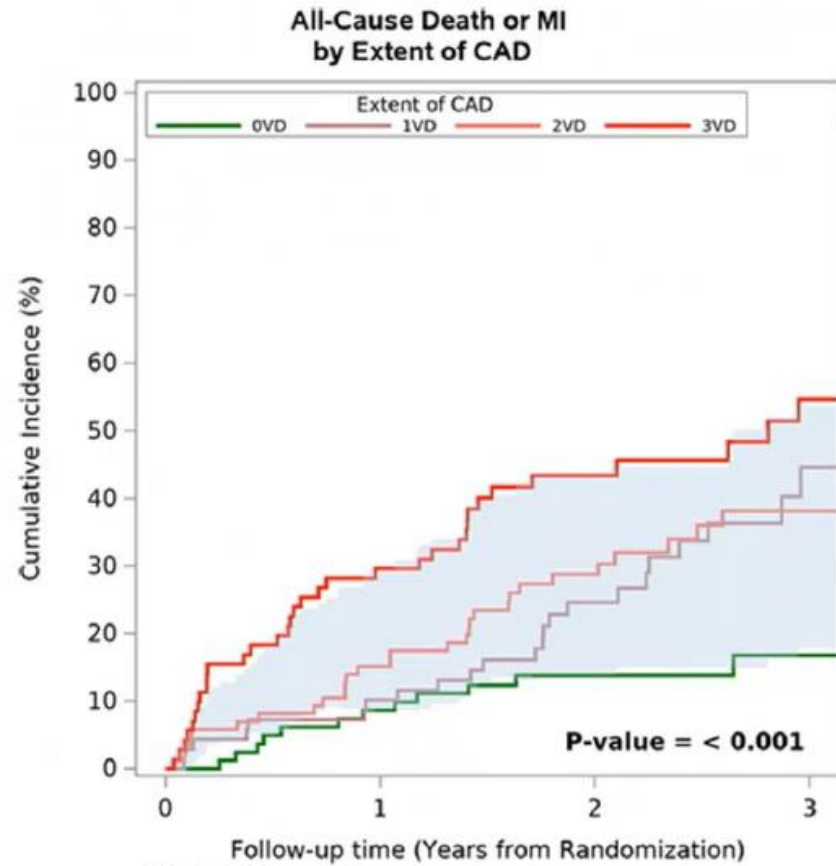
## CAD Severity based on 50% Stenosis



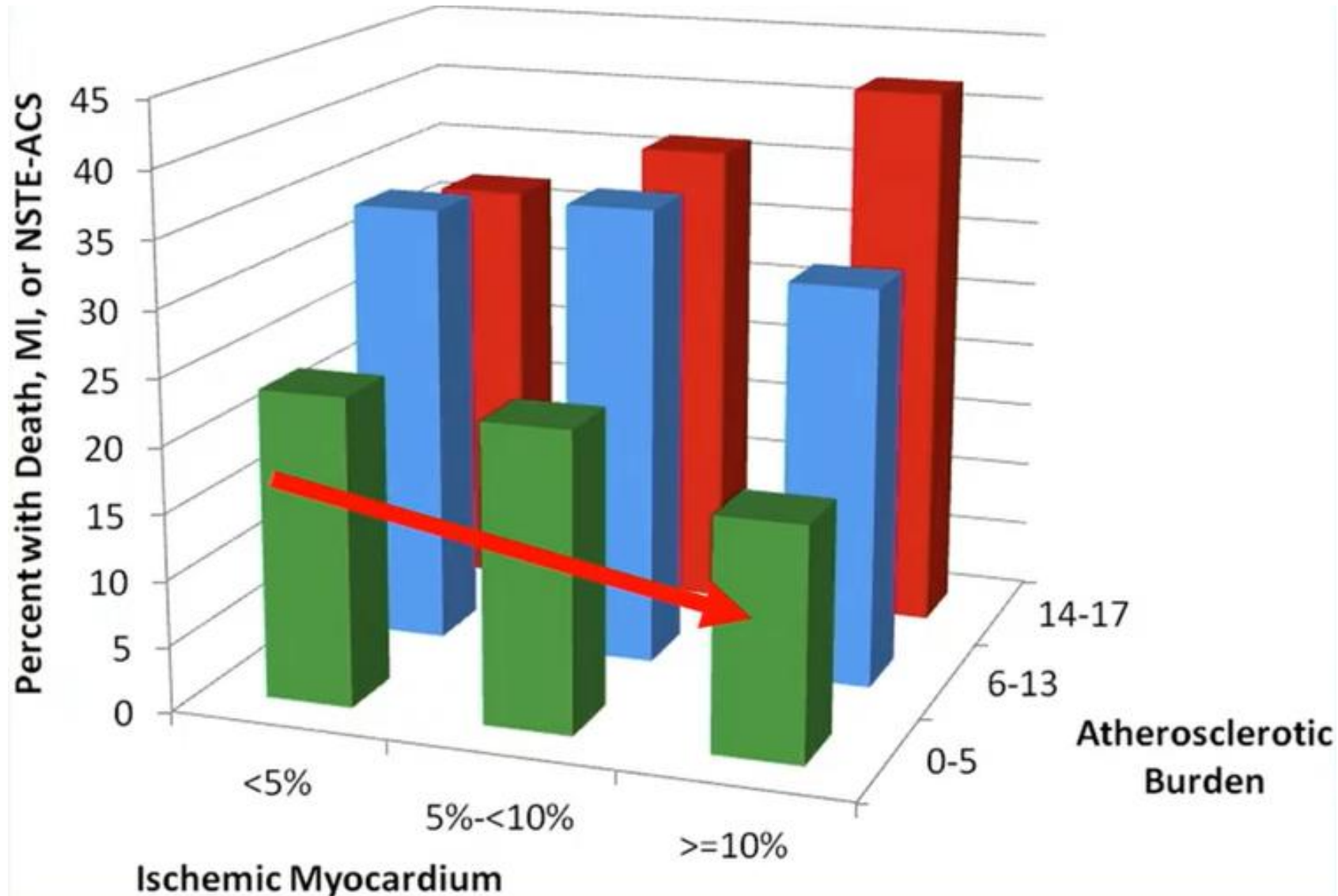
**P<0.001**

These ISCHEMIA sub studies reinforce the growing consensus that ischemia testing is a suboptimal surrogate measure of coronary artery disease severity and that anatomic imaging, preferably with noninvasive coronary computed tomography angiography, provides superior diagnostic information and risk stratification in patients with atherosclerotic coronary artery disease.

# Ischemia CKD Study



# Anatomy informs prognosis, physiology does not



RESEARCH SUMMARY

## CT or Invasive Coronary Angiography in Stable Chest Pain

The DISCHARGE Trial Group. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2200963

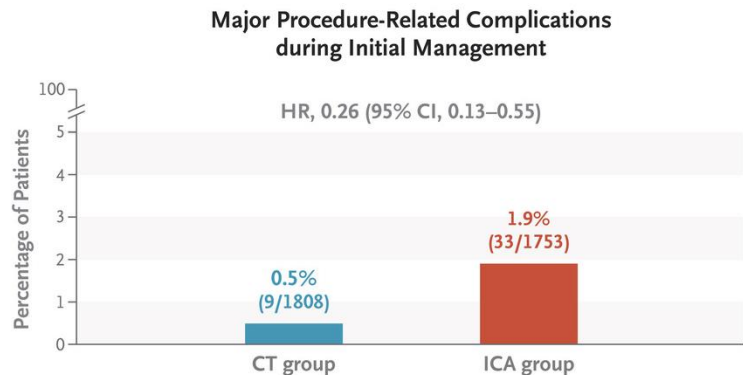
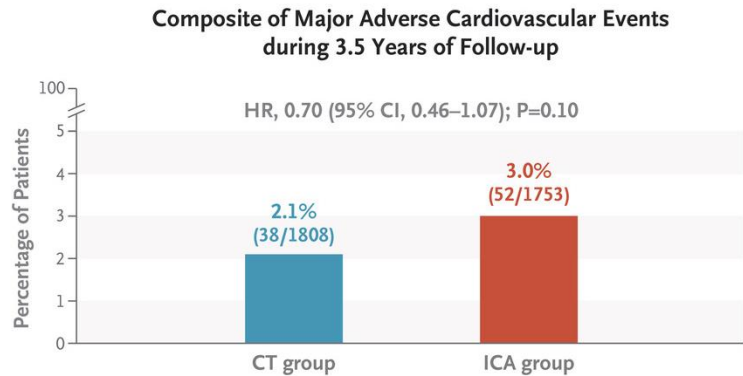
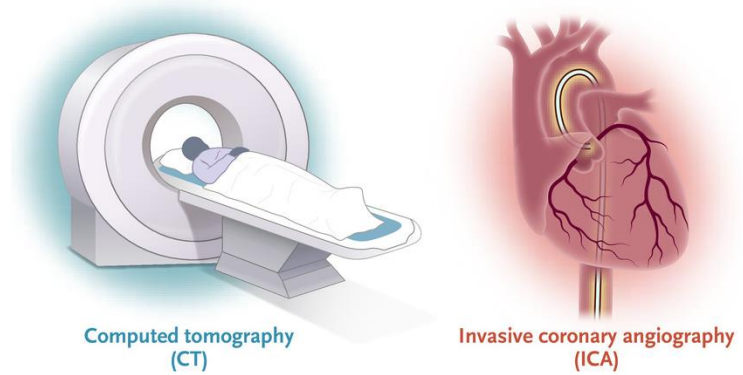
### CLINICAL TRIAL

**Design:** A pragmatic, randomized, superiority trial in 16 European countries compared CT and ICA as initial diagnostic strategies in the guideline-directed management of stable chest pain.

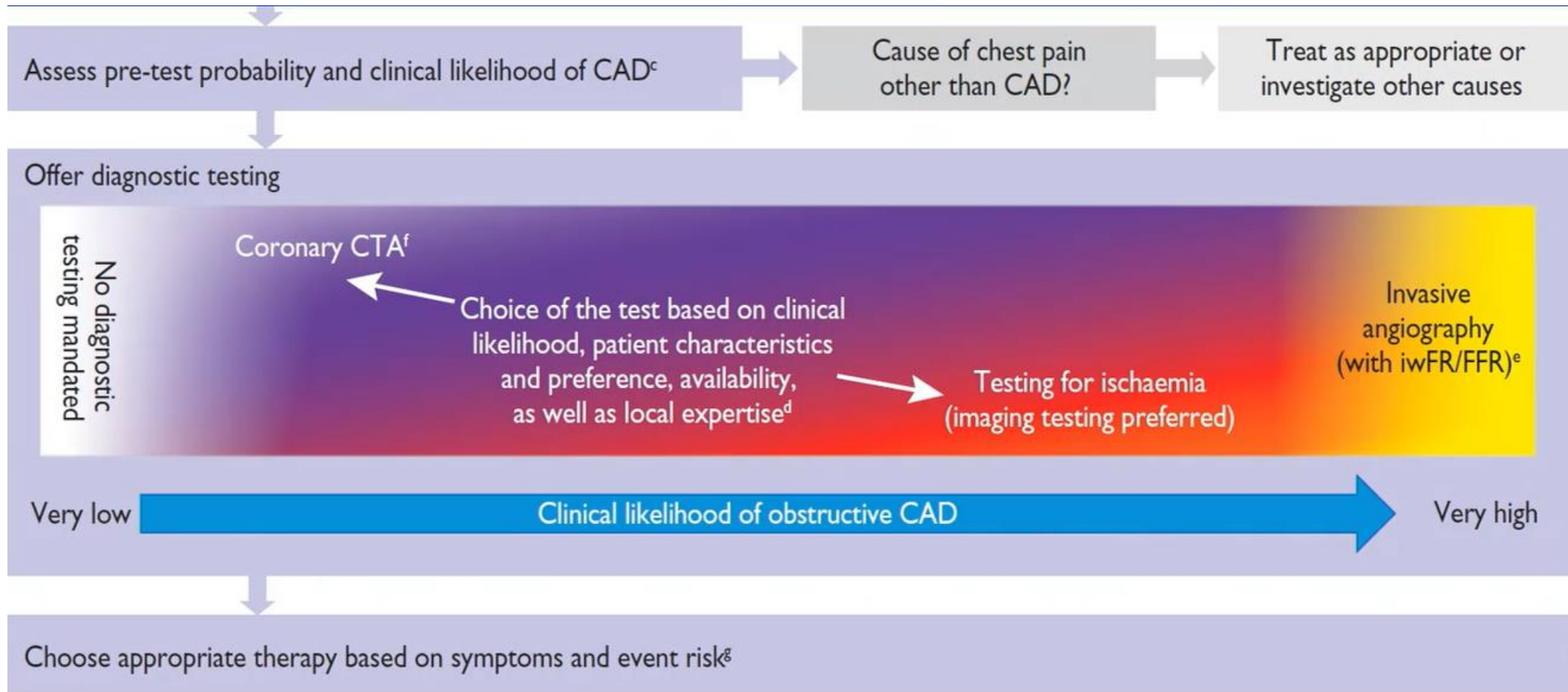
**Intervention:** 3667 patients 30 years of age or older who were referred for ICA because of stable chest pain and had an intermediate pretest probability of obstructive CAD were randomly assigned to undergo either CT or ICA; 3561 patients were included in the modified intention-to-treat analysis. Those who received a diagnosis of obstructive CAD were treated according to European guidelines. The primary outcome was major adverse cardiovascular events, defined as a composite of cardiovascular death, nonfatal myocardial infarction, or nonfatal stroke.

### CONCLUSIONS

Among patients referred for ICA for stable chest pain, an initial CT diagnostic strategy led to a risk of major adverse cardiovascular events similar to that of initial ICA but was associated with fewer major procedure-related complications.



# ESC Guidelines 2019





American  
Heart  
Association.



AMERICAN  
COLLEGE of  
CARDIOLOGY  
FOUNDATION

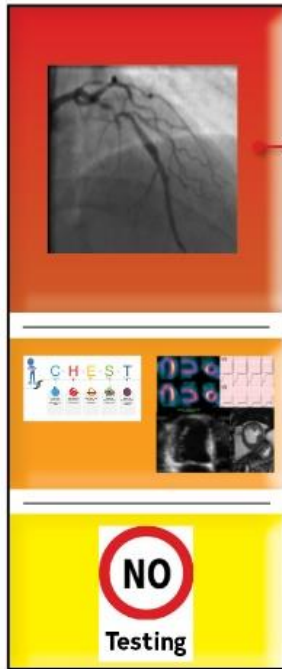
# 2021 AHA/ACC/ASE/CHEST/SAEM/SCCT/SCMR Guideline for the Evaluation and Diagnosis of Chest Pain

---

Endorsed by the American Society of Echocardiography, American College of Chest Physicians, Society for Academic Emergency Medicine, Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography, and Society for Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance

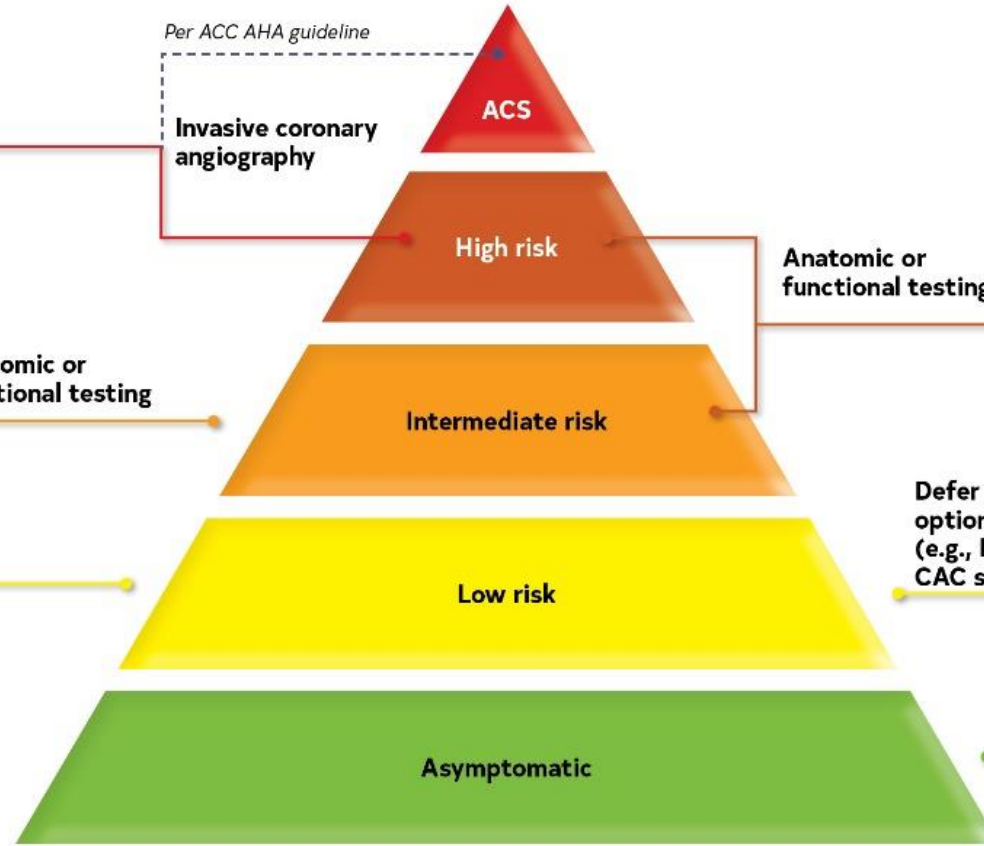
# Chest Pain and Cardiac Testing Considerations

## Acute Chest Pain Evaluation ED evaluation

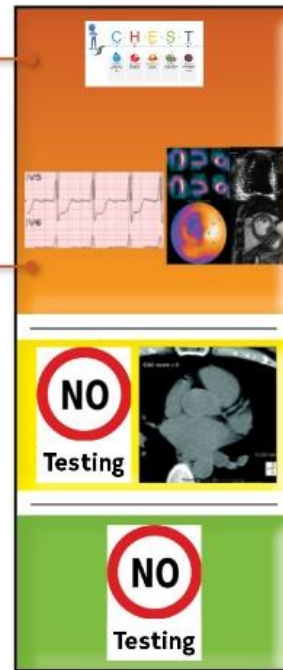


This box represents the evaluation process for acute chest pain in the Emergency Department. It is divided into three horizontal sections: the top section is red and contains a grayscale image of a coronary artery angiogram; the middle section is orange and contains a 'CHEST' logo, an ECG strip, and a CT scan image; the bottom section is yellow and features a red circle with a white 'NO' and the text 'Testing' below it.

## Risk of Major CAD Events



## Stable Chest Pain Evaluation Outpatient evaluation


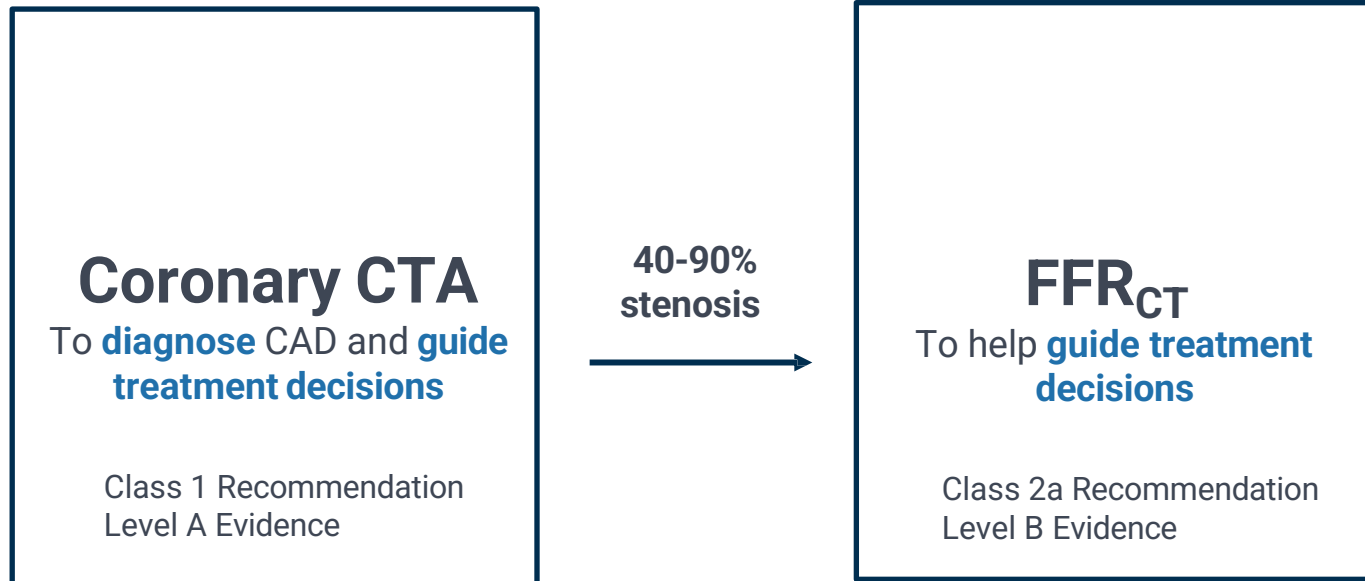


This box represents the evaluation process for stable chest pain in an outpatient setting. It is divided into three horizontal sections: the top section is orange and contains a 'CHEST' logo, an ECG strip, and a CT scan image; the middle section is yellow and features a red circle with a white 'NO' and the text 'Testing' below it; the bottom section is green and features a red circle with a white 'NO' and the text 'Testing' below it.

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

**ACC/AHA Guideline**  
Intermediate / High Risk Patients

**Clinical Evidence**



**Stress Testing**  
To **diagnose** ischemia **ONLY**

Class 1 Recommendation  
Level B evidence

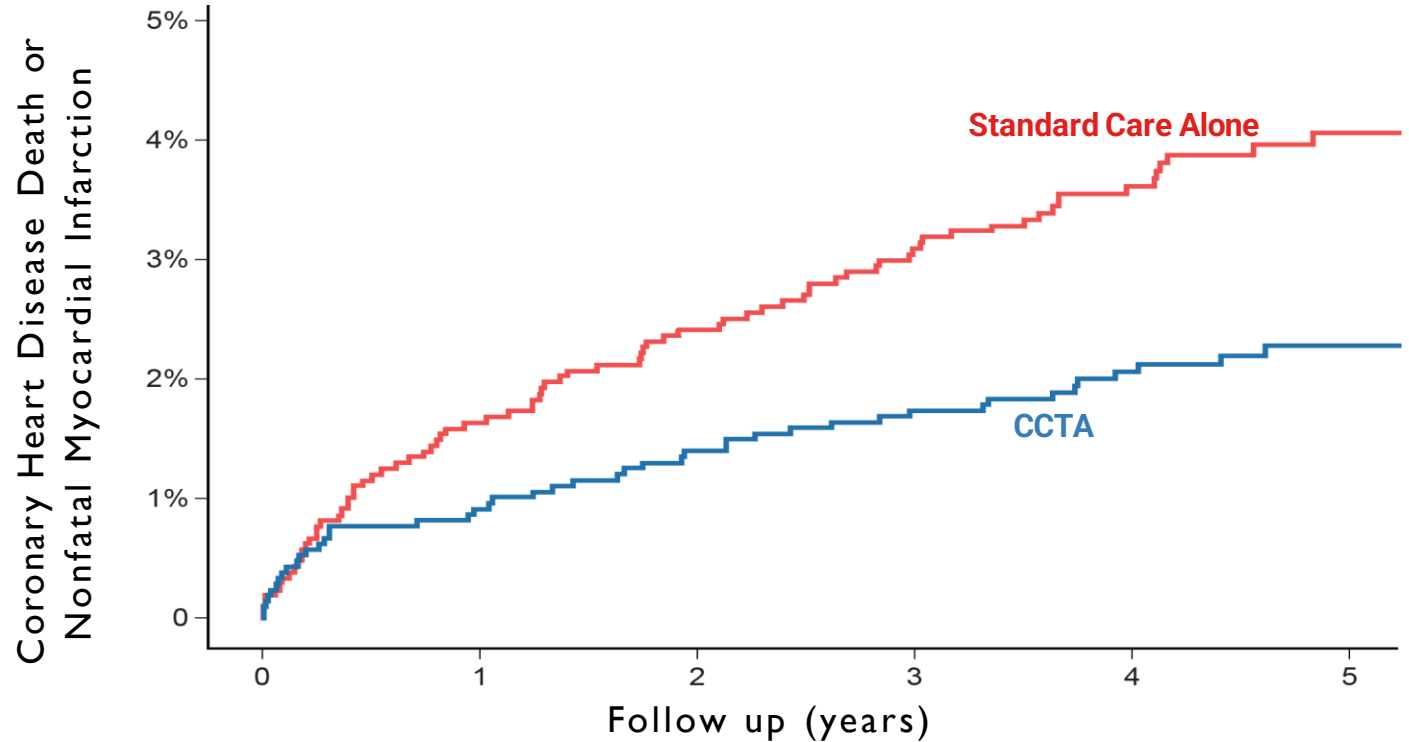


# CCTA LEADS TO IMPROVED LONG-TERM OUTCOMES



## SCOT-HEART: CCTA vs. Standard Care Alone

(N=4,146)



### With CCTA:

- Understand anatomy
- Identify CAD earlier
- Improve long-term outcomes via informed clinical decisions

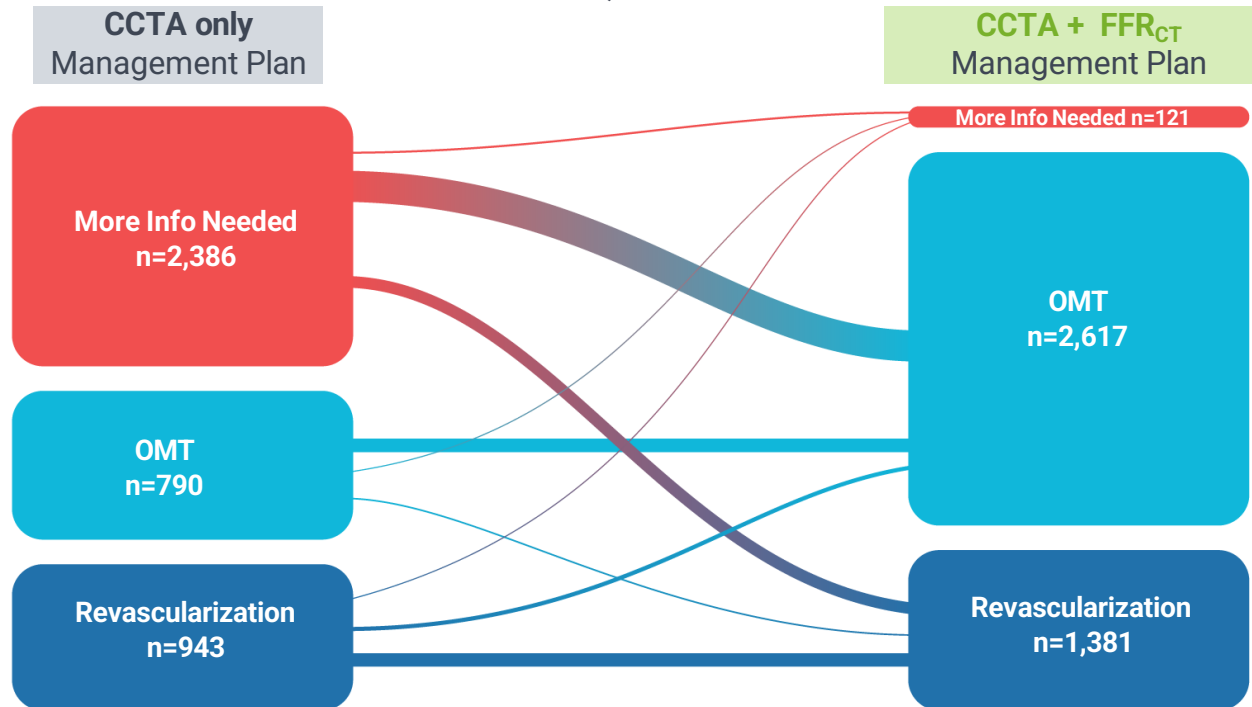
**41%**  
DECREASE

In CV death and MI rate at 5 Years

Newby, et al. N Engl J Med 2018.



# FFR<sub>CT</sub> PROVIDES INCREASED CLARITY



## Patients with Clear Treatment Plan

CCTA only

42%

CCTA + FFR<sub>CT</sub>

97%

CCTA + FFR<sub>CT</sub> provides the actionable information clinicians need to guide decisions for optimal treatment.

# CCTA+FFR<sub>CT</sub>: A NON-INVASIVE DIAGNOSIS THAT'S MORE ACCURATE

## PRECISE Trial Overview

1<sup>st</sup> global, prospective, randomized controlled trial comparing diagnostic & treatment pathways for stable symptomatic patients with suspected CAD

### Precision Pathway

Risk scoring to defer testing for low-risk patients.<sup>2</sup>

CCTA with selective FFR<sub>CT</sub> for elevated risk patients.



vs

### Traditional Testing

Functional testing (stress nuclear and stress echo) and Invasive Coronary Angiography (ICA).



Level 1 Evidence



65 Global Sites



2103 Participants



Adjudicated Core Lab, CEC

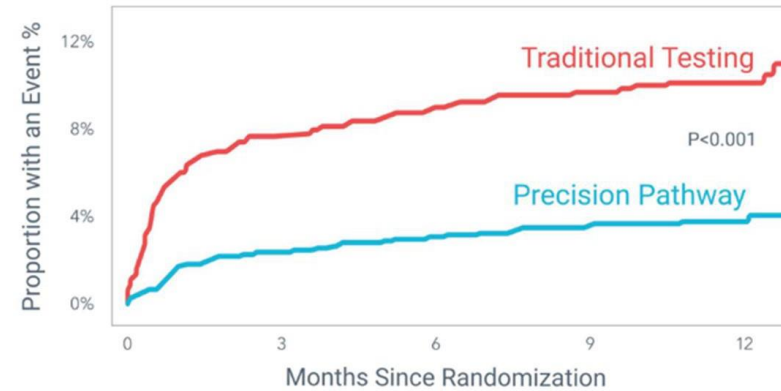


Prospective RCT



1 year Follow-up

## Key Results



**70%**

Reduction in the primary endpoint

Composite:  
All-Cause Death,  
Nonfatal MI,  
ICA w/o Obstructive CAD

Fewer False Negatives

**78%**

more likely to identify patients in need of revascularization

Fewer False Positives

**4x**

less likely to have ICA without obstructive disease (p<0.001)

Diagnostic Cath Yield for Revascularization

**2x**


yield of ICA leading to revascularization (p<0.001)


Douglas, et al. The PRECISE Trial. Presented at AHA Scientific Sessions 2022.

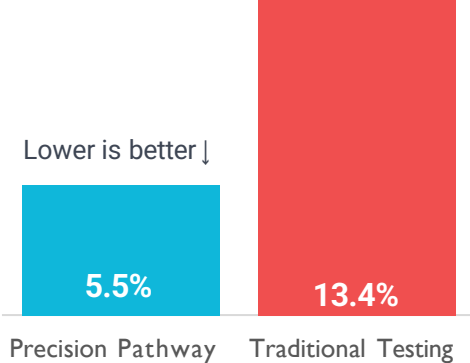
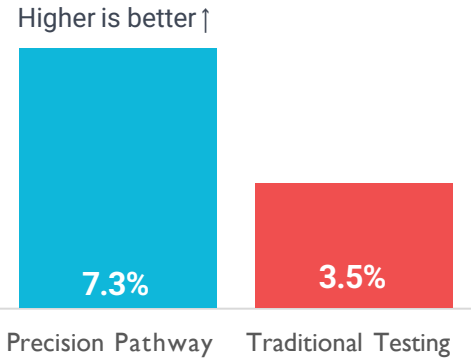
# INCREASE CATH LAB VALUE AND EFFICIENCY



Compared to Traditional Testing, the Precision Pathway has positive net impact for the cath lab

 **~100% increase**  
Rate of subsequent PCI

 **~60% decrease**  
Diagnostic-only ICAs



**INCREASE IN TOTAL CATH LAB REVENUE<sup>1</sup>**

Net Revenue to Hospitals for PCI is approximately **3x** the Net Revenue for Diagnostic-only ICAs

Douglas, et al. The PRECISE Trial. Presented at AHA Scientific Sessions 2022

1. Calculation does not include CABG (paid via inpatient DRG – total reimbursements ranging from \$24k to \$52k for Medicare). Assumes a 25% Medicare, 25% Medicare Advantage, and 50% commercial payer mix; results vary by location and payer contracting. Values are rounded to nearest 500.

Note: Patient Numbers have been rounded based on the 100 patient population to illustrate deferred ICAs in the Precision Arm are replaced in a 1:1 manner by increased PCIs/CABG

# Payers Easing PA Requirement

United Healthcare's policy update will make it easier for providers to offer a coronary CTA ahead of a stress test for quantifying patients. As part of the stress test pre-authorization process, providers will be prompted to instead utilize coronary CTA. If the provider accepts the suggestion, they will receive automatic approval and an authorization number for the coronary CTA. If the provider insists on stress test, they must go through the normal prior-authorization process.

# GET THE WHOLE STORY WITH CCTA

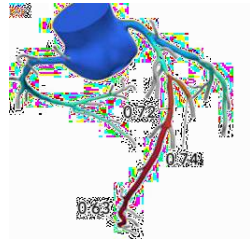
## Anatomy



### RoadMap Analysis

Helps physicians detect or rule out CAD

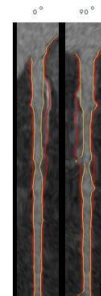
## Physiology



### FFR<sub>CT</sub>

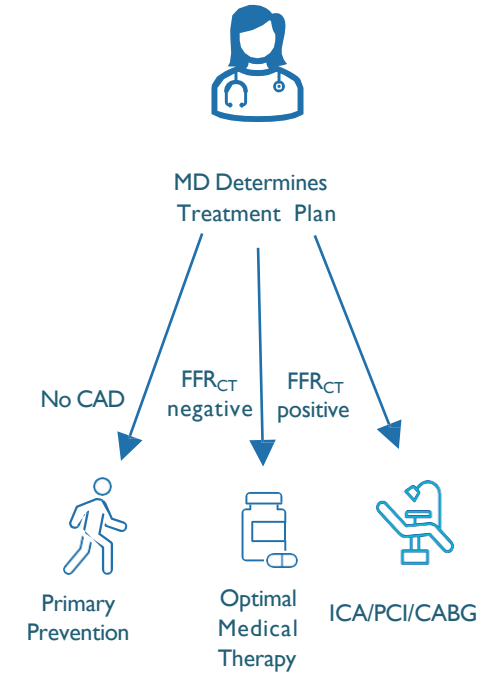
Determines the significance of CAD and inform treatment plans

## Plaque



### Plaque Analysis

Informs risk and prognosis of CAD by showing atherosclerosis





上医医未病之病

中医医将病之病

下医医已病之病

~ 黄帝内经 ~

Superior doctors prevent the disease.

Mediocre doctors treat the disease  
before evident.

Inferior doctors treat the full-blown disease.

--Huang Dee: Nai-Ching

(2600 BC First Chinese Medical Text)

