ACC/AHA Guideline

ACC/AHA/ASE 2003 Guideline Update for the Clinical Application of Echocardiography: Summary Article


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I. General Considerations and Scope
The previous guideline for the use of echocardiography was published in March 1997. Since that time, there have been significant advances in the technology of echocardiography and growth in its clinical use and in the scientific evidence leading to recommendations for its proper use.

Each section has been reviewed and updated in evidence tables, and where appropriate, changes have been made in

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The ACC/AHA Task Force on Practice Guidelines makes every effort to avoid any actual or potential conflicts of interest that might arise as a result of an outside relationship or personal interest of a member of the writing panel. Specifically, all members of the writing panel are asked to provide disclosure statements of all such relationships that might be perceived as real or potential conflicts of interest. These statements are reviewed by the parent task force, reported orally to all members of the writing panel at the first meeting, and updated as changes occur. The relationship with industry information for the writing committee members is posted on the ACC and AHA World Wide Web sites with the full-length version of the update.


This document and the full text guideline are available on the World Wide Web sites of the American College of Cardiology (www.acc.org), the American Heart Association (www.americanheart.org), and the American Society of Echocardiography (www.asecho.org). To obtain a single copy of this summary article published in the September 3, 2003, issue of Circulation, September 2, 2003, issue of the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, September 2, 2003, issue of the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, call 1-800-253-4636 or write to the American College of Cardiology Foundation, Resource Center, 9111 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD 20814-1699, and ask for reprint number 71-0263. To purchase additional reprints: up to 999 copies, call 1-800-611-6083 (US only) or fax 413-665-2671; 1000 or more copies, call 214-706-1466, fax 214-691-6342, or e-mail pubauth@heart.org.

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recommendations. A new section on the use of intraoperative transesophageal echocardiography (TEE) is being added to update the guidelines published by the American Society of Anesthesiologists and the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists. There are extensive revisions, especially of the sections on ischemic heart disease; congestive heart failure, cardiomyopathy, and assessment of left ventricular (LV) function; and screening and echocardiography in the critically ill. There are new tables of evidence and extensive revisions in the ischemic heart disease evidence tables.

Because of space limitations, only those sections and evidence tables with new recommendations will be printed in this summary article. Where there are minimal changes in a recommendation grouping, such as a change from Class IIA to Class I, only that change will be printed, not the entire set of recommendations. Advances for which the clinical applications are still being investigated, such as the use of myocardial contrast agents and three-dimensional echocardiography, will not be discussed.

The original recommendations of the 1997 guideline are based on a Medline search of the English literature from 1990 to May 1995. The original search yielded more than 3000 references, which the committee reviewed. For this guideline update, literature searching was conducted in Medline, EMBASE, Best Evidence, and the Cochrane Library for English-language meta-analyses and systematic reviews from 1995 through September 2001. Further searching was conducted for new clinical trials on the following topics: echocardiography in adult congenital heart disease, echocardiography for evaluation of chest pain in the emergency department, and intraoperative echocardiography. The new searches yielded more than 1000 references that were reviewed by the writing committee.

This document includes recommendations for the use of echocardiography in both adult and pediatric patients. The pediatric guidelines also include recommendations for fetal echocardiography, an increasingly important field. The guidelines include recommendations for the use of echocardiography in both specific cardiovascular disorders and the evaluation of patients with frequently observed cardiovascular symptoms and signs, common presenting complaints, or findings of dyspnea, chest discomfort, and cardiac murmur. In this way, the guidelines will provide assistance to physicians regarding the use of echocardiographic techniques in the evaluation of such common clinical problems.

The recommendations concerning the use of echocardiography follow the indication classification system (eg, Class I, II, and III) used in other American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association (ACC/AHA) guidelines:

**Class I:** Conditions for which there is evidence and/or general agreement that a given procedure or treatment is useful and effective.

**Class II:** Conditions for which there is conflicting evidence and/or a divergence of opinion about the usefulness/efficacy of a procedure or treatment.

**IIa:** Weight of evidence/opinion is in favor of usefulness/efficacy.

**IIb:** Usefulness/efficacy is less well established by evidence/opinion.

**Class III:** Conditions for which there is evidence and/or general agreement that the procedure/treatment is not useful/effective and in some cases may be harmful.

Evaluation of the clinical utility of a diagnostic test such as echocardiography is far more difficult than assessment of the efficacy of a therapeutic intervention because the diagnostic test can never have the same direct impact on patient survival or recovery. Nevertheless, a series of hierarchical criteria are generally accepted as a scale by which to judge worth.1-3

**Hierarchical Levels of Echocardiography Assessment**

- Technical capacity
- Diagnostic performance
- Impact on diagnostic and prognostic thinking
- Therapeutic impact
- Health-related outcomes

Because there are essentially no randomized trials assessing health outcomes for diagnostic tests, the committee has not ranked the available scientific evidence in an A, B, and C fashion (as in other ACC/AHA documents) but rather has compiled the evidence in tables. The evidence tables have been extensively revised and updated. All recommendations are thus based on either this evidence from observational studies or on the expert consensus of the committee.

The definition of echocardiography used in this document incorporates Doppler analysis, M-mode echocardiography, two-dimensional transthoracic echocardiography (TTE), and, when indicated, TEE. Intravascular ultrasound is not considered but is reviewed in the ACC/AHA Guidelines for Percutaneous Coronary Intervention4 (available at http://www. acc.org/clinical/guidelines/percutaneous/dirIndex.htm) and the Clinical Expert Consensus Document on intravascular ultrasound5 (available at http://www.acc.org/clinical/consensus/standards/standard12.htm). Echocardiography for evaluating the patient with cardiovascular disease for noncardiac surgery is considered in the ACC/AHA Guidelines for Perioperative Cardiovascular Evaluation for Noncardiac Surgery.6 The techniques of three-dimensional echocardiography are still in the developmental stages and are not considered here. New techniques that are still rapidly evolving and improvements that are purely technological in echo-Doppler instrumentation, such as color Doppler imaging and digital echocardiography, are not going to be separately discussed in the clinical recommendations addressed in this document. Tissue Doppler imaging, both pulsed and color, which detects low Doppler shift frequencies of high energy generated by the contracting myocardium and consequent wall motion, are proving very useful in evaluating systolic and diastolic myocardial function. However, these technological advances will also not be separately discussed in the clinical recommendations.4,5 Echocardiographic-contrast injections designed to assess myocardial perfusion to quantify myocardium at risk and perfusion beds also were not addressed.

These guidelines address recommendations about the frequency with which an echocardiographic study is repeated. If
the frequency with which studies are repeated could be decreased without adversely affecting the quality of care, the economic savings realized would likely be significant. With a noninvasive diagnostic study and no known complications, the potential for repeating the study unnecessarily exists. It is easier to state when a repeat echocardiogram is not needed then when and how often it should be repeated, because no studies in the literature address this question. How often an echocardiogram should be done depends on the individual patient and must be left to the judgment of the physician until evidence-based data addressing this issue are available.

The ACC/AHA/ASE 2003 Guideline Update for the Clinical Application of Echocardiography includes several significant changes in the recommendations and in the supporting narrative portion. In this summary, we list the updated recommendations, as well as commentary on some of the changes. All new or revised language in recommendations appears in boldface type. Only the references supporting the new recommendations are included in this article. The reader is referred to the full-text version of the guidelines posted on the American College of Cardiology (www.acc.org), American Heart Association (www.americanheart.org), and American Society for Echocardiography (www.asecho.org) World Wide Web sites for a more detailed exposition of the rationale for these changes.

**Section II-B. Native Valvular Stenosis**

**Recommendations for Echocardiography in Valvular Stenosis**

Comment: New references.6,7

**Class IIb**

2. Dobutamine echocardiography for the evaluation of patients with low-gradient aortic stenosis and ventricular dysfunction.

**Section II-C. Native Valvular Regurgitation**

**Recommendations for Echocardiography in Native Valvular Regurgitation**

Comment: Literature on valvular effects of anorectic drugs and references to echocardiographic predictors of prognosis after aortic and mitral valve surgery have been added.6–10

**Class I**

7. Assessment of the effects of medical therapy on the severity of regurgitation and ventricular compensation and function when it might change medical management.

8. Assessment of valvular morphology and regurgitation in patients with a history of anorectic drug use, or the use of any drug or agent known to be associated with valvular heart disease, who are symptomatic, have cardiac murmurs, or have a technically inadequate auscultatory examination.

**Class III**

2. Routine repetition of echocardiography in past users of anorectic drugs with normal studies or known trivial valvular abnormalities.

**Section II-F. Infective Endocarditis: Native Valves**

**Recommendations for Echocardiography in Infective Endocarditis: Native Valves**

Comment: The Duke Criteria for the diagnosis of infective endocarditis have been added, as well as the value of TEE in the setting of a negative transthoracic echocardiogram when there is high clinical suspicion or when a prosthetic valve is involved.11,12

**Class I**

6. If TTE is equivocal, TEE evaluation of staphylococcus bacteremia without a known source.

**Class IIa**

1. Evaluation of persistent nonstaphylococcus bacteremia without a known source.*

**Class III**

1. Evaluation of transient fever without evidence of bacteremia or new murmur.

*TEE may frequently provide incremental value in addition to information obtained by TTE. The role of TEE in first-line examination awaits further study.

**Section II-G. Prosthetic Valves**

**Recommendations for Echocardiography in Valvular Heart Disease and Prosthetic Valves**

**Class I**

3. Use of echocardiography (especially TEE) in guiding the performance of interventional techniques and surgery (eg, balloon valvotomy and valve repair) for valvular disease.

**Section IV-A. Acute Ischemic Syndromes**

**Recommendations for Echocardiography in the Diagnosis of Acute Myocardial Ischemic Syndromes**

Comment: Movement of a recommendation from Class IIa to Class I and minor wording change.

**Recommendations for Echocardiography in Risk Assessment, Prognosis, and Assessment of Therapy in Acute Myocardial Ischemic Syndromes**

**Class I**

4. Assessment of myocardial viability when required to define potential efficacy of revascularization.*

**Class IIa**

2. Moved to Class I (see above).

**Class IIb**

1. Assessment of late prognosis (greater than or equal to 2 years after acute myocardial infarction).

*Dobutamine stress echocardiography.
Section IV-B. Chronic Ischemic Heart Disease

Recommendations for Echocardiography in Diagnosis and Prognosis of Chronic Ischemic Heart Disease

Comment: There are new sections on stress echocardiography in the detection of coronary disease in the transplanted heart and stress echocardiography in the detection of coronary disease in women. There is one new Class I recommendation and three new Class IIa recommendations. Recommendations have been renumbered for clarity.

Class I

2. Exercise echocardiography for diagnosis of myocardial ischemia in selected patients (those for whom ECG assessment is less reliable because of digoxin use, LVH or with more than 1 mm ST depression at rest on the baseline ECG, those with pre-excitation [Wolff-Parkinson-White] syndrome, complete left bundle-branch block) with an intermediate pretest likelihood of CAD.

Class IIa

1. Prognosis of myocardial ischemia in selected patients (those in whom ECG assessment is less reliable) with the following ECG abnormalities: pre-excitation (Wolff-Parkinson-White) syndrome, electronically paced ventricular rhythm, more than 1 mm of ST depression at rest, complete left bundle-branch block.*
2. Detection of coronary arteriopathy in patients who have undergone cardiac transplantation.†
3. Detection of myocardial ischemia in women with a low or intermediate pretest likelihood of CAD.*

Class IIb

1. Moved to Class IIa.

*Exercise or pharmacological stress echocardiogram.
†Dobutamine stress echocardiogram.

Recommendations for Echocardiography in Assessment of Interventions in Chronic Ischemic Heart Disease

One new Class IIa recommendation has been added.

Class IIa

1. Assessment of LV function in patients with previous myocardial infarction when needed to guide possible implantation of implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD) in patients with known or suspected LV dysfunction.

Tables 1 through 6 are new tables that relate to CAD.

Section V-B. Regional LV Function

Recommendations for Echocardiography in Patients With Dyspnea, Edema, or Cardiomyopathy

Class I

1. Dyspnea with clinical signs of heart disease.

Class IIb

1. Re-evaluation of patients with established cardiomyopathy when there is no change in clinical status but when the results might change management.

Class III

2. Routine re-evaluation in clinically stable patients in whom no change in management is contemplated and for whom the results would not change management.

Section IX. Pulmonary Disease

Recommendations for Echocardiography in Pulmonary and Pulmonary Vascular Disease

Comment: One recommendation was moved from Class I to Class IIa. Class IIa recommendations have been renumbered for clarity. Evidence was added concerning the diagnosis of severe pulmonary embolism by echocardiography.122

Class I

2. Moved to Class IIa (see below).

Class IIa

1. Pulmonary emboli and suspected clots in the right atrium or ventricle or main pulmonary artery branches.*

*TEE is indicated when TTE studies are not diagnostic.

Section XII. Arrhythmias and Palpitations

Recommendations for Echocardiography in Patients With Arrhythmias and Palpitations

Comment: An additional Class IIb recommendation was made concerning the use of echocardiography in the Maze procedure.123–129

Class IIa

2. TEE or intracardiac ultrasound guidance of radiofrequency ablative procedures.

Class IIIb

3. Postoperative evaluation of patients undergoing the Maze procedure to monitor atrial function.

Recommendations for Echocardiography Before Cardioversion

Class IIb

2. Patients with mitral valve disease or hypertrophic cardiomyopathy who have been on long-term anticoagulation at therapeutic levels before cardioversion unless there are other reasons for anticoagulation (eg, prior embolus or known thrombus on previous TEE).*

*TEE only.
### TABLE 1. Evaluation of Myocardial Viability With DSE in Patients With Chronic CAD and Impaired Systolic LV Function to Detect Hibernating Myocardium

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Author, Year</th>
<th>Ref.</th>
<th>Stress</th>
<th>Total Patients</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Sensitivity %</th>
<th>Specificity %</th>
<th>PPV %</th>
<th>NPV %</th>
<th>Accuracy %</th>
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<td>Imp. WM*</td>
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DSE indicates dobutamine stress echocardiography (dobutamine infused at both low and high doses); CAD, coronary artery disease; LV, left ventricular; Ref., reference number; Stress, DSE protocol used for pharmacological stress; Total Patients, number of patients with chronic CAD and LV dysfunction in whom DSE studies were analyzed; Criteria, findings on DSE considered as a “positive” indicator of viability; PPV, positive predictive value (likelihood that presence of viability by DSE is indicative of subsequent functional recovery after revascularization); NPV, negative predictive value (likelihood that absence of viability by DSE is indicative of lack of functional recovery after revascularization); LD-DSE, low dose DSE; Imp. WM, improved wall motion during dobutamine stress in a previously asynergic segment; and Biphasic resp, biphasic response, defined as improvement in wall motion during low DSE followed by worsening at high dose.

In these patients, percutaneous or surgical revascularization was performed after DSE testing. Those patients demonstrating improved wall motion on follow-up resting transthoracic echocardiography were considered to have had impaired LV function due to hibernating myocardium, whereas those demonstrating no improvement despite revascularization were considered to have had impaired LV function due to necrotic myocardium.

*Wall motion analyzed by segment; †wall motion analyzed by patient.

### Class III

2. Patients who have been on long-term anticoagulation at therapeutic levels and who do not have mitral valve disease or hypertrophic cardiomyopathy before cardioversion unless there are other reasons for anticoagulation (eg, prior embolus or known thrombus on previous TEE).*

*TEE only.

### Section XIIa. Screening

#### Recommendations for Echocardiography to Screen for the Presence of Cardiovascular Disease

Comment: A section has been added on the molecular genetics work that has identified a familial basis for many forms of cardiomyopathy, including dilated congestive cardiomyopathy, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, and right ventricular (RV) dysplasia. A possible genetic basis for these cardiomyopathies supports echocardiographic screening of first-degree relatives.\(^{130-138}\)

### Class I

5. First-degree relatives (parents, siblings, children) of patients with unexplained dilated cardiomyopathy in whom no etiology has been identified.

### Class III

2. Routine screening echocardiogram for participation in competitive sports in patients with normal cardiovascular history, ECG, and examination.
### TABLE 2. Prognostic Value of Stress Echocardiography in Various Patient Populations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Author, Year</th>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Stress</th>
<th>Total Pts</th>
<th>Avg F/U, mo</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Ischemia</th>
<th>No Ischemia</th>
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<td>NL DSE</td>
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After cardiac transplantation

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<tr>
<th>First Author, Year</th>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Stress</th>
<th>Total Pts</th>
<th>Avg F/U, mo</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Ischemia</th>
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<th>Normal</th>
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<td>DSE†</td>
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<td>D, MI, CHF</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>3.6</td>
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</table>

**Note:**
- DIP: dipyridamole stress echocardiography
- TME: treadmill stress echocardiography
- DSE: dobutamine stress echocardiography
- MI: nonfatal myocardial infarction
- UA: unstable angina
- D: death
- CHF: development of severe congestive heart failure

Annualized Event Rate indicates the percentage of patients per year who developed at least 1 adverse event during follow-up, depending on whether inducible ischemia was or was not demonstrated by stress echocardiography (the annualized event rate is also tabulated for those series describing patients who had normal resting and normal stress results); Stress, stress echocardiography protocol; Total Pts, number of patients studied with stress echocardiography and subsequently followed up for the development of adverse events (including death, nonfatal myocardial infarction, revascularization, or unstable angina); Avg F/U, average period of follow-up after stress echocardiography; DIP, dipyridamole stress echocardiography; D, death; MI, nonfatal myocardial infarction; NL, series describing patients who had normal resting and normal stress results; TME, treadmill stress echocardiography; DSE, dobutamine stress echocardiography; UA, unstable angina; Re, revascularization necessary; w, patients in these series were all women; and CHF, development of severe congestive heart failure.

### TABLE 3. Prognostic Value of Viable (Hibernating) Myocardium by LD-DSE and Influence of Revascularization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Author, Year</th>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Stress</th>
<th>Total Pts</th>
<th>Avg F/U, mo</th>
<th>Adverse Events</th>
<th>Viable, +Re</th>
<th>Viable, −Re</th>
<th>Not Viable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Meluzin, 1998</td>
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<td>LD-DSE</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Death, MI</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>9.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Afridi, 1998</td>
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<td>LD-DSE</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Death</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
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</table>

LD-DSE indicates low-dose dobutamine stress echocardiography; Ref., reference number; Stress, stress echocardiography protocol; Total Pts, number of patients with chronic ischemic heart disease and impaired left ventricular systolic function studied with LD-DSE and subsequently followed up for the development of an adverse event (death or nonfatal myocardial infarction); Avg F/U, average period of follow-up after LD-DSE; Annualized Event Rate, percentage of patients per year who developed an adverse event during follow-up after LD-DSE; Viable, +Re, patients with viability (contractile reserve) demonstrated by LD-DSE who underwent revascularization and were then followed up; Viable, −Re, patients with viability (contractile reserve) demonstrated by LD-DSE who did not undergo revascularization and were then followed up; Not Viable, patients without contractile reserve by LD-DSE who were followed up for adverse events; and MI, nonfatal myocardial infarction.

Prognostic value of contractile reserve detected with LD-DSE in patients with chronic ischemic heart disease and impaired left ventricular systolic function. The annualized rate of death or MI is tabulated in patients with viable myocardium by LD-DSE depending on whether they did or did not undergo revascularization and also in those patients without viable myocardium.
Table 4. Diagnostic Accuracy of Exercise Echocardiography in Detecting Angiographically Proved CAD (Without Correction for Referral Bias)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Author, Year</th>
<th>Ref.</th>
<th>Exercise</th>
<th>Significant CAD</th>
<th>Total Pts</th>
<th>Sensitivity, %</th>
<th>Sens 1-VD, %</th>
<th>Sens MVD, %</th>
<th>Specificity, %</th>
<th>PPV, %</th>
<th>NPV, %</th>
<th>Accuracy, %</th>
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<td>TME</td>
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<td>91</td>
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<td>TME</td>
<td>Greater than or equal to 50%</td>
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<td>88</td>
<td>...</td>
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<td>76</td>
<td>80</td>
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<td>100</td>
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<td>86</td>
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<td>86</td>
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<td>Greater than 50%</td>
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<td>...</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>40</td>
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</table>

CAD indicates coronary artery disease; Ref., reference number; Exercise, type of exercise testing used in conjunction with transthoracic echocardiographic imaging; Significant CAD, % coronary luminal diameter narrowing, demonstrated by selective coronary angiography, considered to represent significant CAD; Total Pts, number of patients in each series undergoing selective coronary angiography in whom exercise echocardiographic studies and wall motion analysis were also performed; Sens 1-VD, test results positive in patients with single-vessel CAD; Sens MVD, test results positive in patients with multivessel disease; PPV, positive predictive value (likelihood of angiographically significant CAD in patients with inducible wall motion abnormalities by exercise echocardiography); NPV, negative predictive value (likelihood of absence of angiographically significant CAD in patients without inducible wall motion abnormalities by exercise echocardiography); TME, treadmill exercise; UBE, upright bicycle ergometry; BE, bicycle ergometry; and SBE, supine bicycle ergometry.

A new or worsening regional wall motion abnormality induced by stress generally was considered a “positive” result.
TABLE 5. Diagnostic Accuracy of Dobutamine Stress Echocardiography in Detecting Angiographically Proved CAD (Without Correction for Referral Bias)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author, Year</th>
<th>Ref.</th>
<th>Protocol</th>
<th>Significant CAD</th>
<th>Total Pts</th>
<th>Sensitivity, %</th>
<th>Sens 1-VD, %</th>
<th>Sens MVD, %</th>
<th>Specificity, %</th>
<th>PPV, %</th>
<th>NPV, %</th>
<th>Accuracy, %</th>
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<td>88</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>87</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Greater than or equal to 50%</td>
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CAD indicates coronary artery disease; Ref., reference number; Protocol, dobutamine stress protocol, including initial and peak infusion rates (expressed in micrograms per kilogram per minute); Significant CAD, % coronary luminal diameter narrowing, demonstrated by selective coronary angiography, considered to represent significant CAD; Total Pts, number of patients in each series undergoing selective coronary angiography in whom dobutamine stress echocardiographic studies and wall motion analysis were also performed; Sens 1-VD, test results positive in patients with single-vessel CAD; Sens MVD, test results positive in patients with multivessel CAD; PPV, positive predictive value (likelihood of angiographically significant CAD in patients with inducible wall motion abnormalities by pharmacological stress echocardiography); NPV, negative predictive value (likelihood of absence of angiographically significant CAD in patients without inducible wall motion abnormalities by pharmacological stress echocardiography); DSE, dobutamine stress echocardiography; and DASE, dobutamine/strose, atropine stress echocardiology.

A new or worsening regional wall motion abnormality induced by stress generally was considered a “positive” result.
Echocardiography; DS-TEE, dobutamine stress transesophageal echocardiography; and DSE, dobutamine stress echocardiography. DIP, dipyridamole stress echocardiography; TME, treadmill stress echocardiography; UBE, upright bicycle stress echocardiography; DASE, dobutamine/atropine stress echocardiography.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures: none.

For ease of reference, the Special Report has been divided into sections by topic and section number. The appropriate section number is included in parentheses in the text where applicable. The text and the numbered sections do not necessarily appear in reading order. Sections are classified between Class I and Class III recommendations, as follows:

Class I

1. Patients with known congenital heart disease in whom it is important that pulmonary artery pressure be monitored (eg, patients with hemodynamically important, moderate, or large ventricular septal defects, atrial septal defects, single ventricle, or any of the above with an additional risk factor for pulmonary hypertension).

2. Periodic echocardiography in patients with repaired (or palliated) congenital heart disease with the following: change in clinical condition or clinical suspicion of residual defects, obstruction of conduits and baffles, or LV or RV function that must be monitored, or when there is a possibility of hemodynamic progression or a history of pulmonary hypertension.

3. Presence of a syndrome associated with a high incidence of congenital heart disease for which there are no abnormal cardiac findings and no urgency of management decisions. (Class IIa)

4. Presence of a syndrome associated with a high incidence of congenital heart disease for which there are no abnormal cardiac findings and for which there is an urgency of management decisions (Class IIb).

5. Patients with known congenital heart disease in whom it is important that left atrial pressure be monitored (eg, patients with a systemic to pulmonary artery shunt, or patients with increased left atrial pressure and a potential for increased left atrial pressure).

6. Periodic echocardiography in patients with repaired (or palliated) congenital heart disease with the following: change in clinical condition or clinical suspicion of residual defects, or LV or RV function that must be monitored, or when there is a possibility of hemodynamic progression or a history of pulmonary hypertension.
Class IIb

1. Moved to Class IIa (see above).

Class III

2. Acrocyanosis with normal upper- and lower-extremity pulsed oximetry oxygen saturations.

Section XV-F. Congenital Cardiovascular Disease in the Infant, Child, and Adolescent

Recommendations for Echocardiography in the Infant, Child, and Adolescent

Comment: There are two new Class I recommendations, which have been renumbered for clarity.6,195–200

Class I

5. Selection, placement, patency, and monitoring of endovascular devices, as well as identification of intracardiac or intravascular shunting before, during, and subsequent to interventional cardiac catheterization.

6. Immediate assessment after percutaneous interventional cardiac catheterization procedure.

10. Presence of a syndrome associated with cardiovascular disease and dominant inheritance or multiple affected family members (eg, Marfan syndrome or Ehlers-Danlos syndrome).

Deleted:

Phenotypic findings of Marfan syndrome or Ehlers-Danlos syndrome.

Presence of a syndrome associated with high incidence of congenital heart disease when there are no abnormal cardiac findings.

“Atypical,” “nonvasodepressors” syncope without other causes.

Section XV-G. Arrhythmias/Conduction Disturbances

Recommendations for Echocardiography in Pediatric Patients With Arrhythmias/Conduction Disturbances

Comment: Echocardiography is discretionary after radiofrequency catheter ablation. Persistent ventricular dilatation after successful ablation or effective medical control of the heart rate may indicate an arrhythmogenic primary cardiomyopathy.201–203

Class IIa

2. Evidence of pre-excitation on ECG with symptoms.

Class IIb

3. Examination immediately after radiofrequency ablation.

Section XV-H. Acquired Cardiovascular Disease

Recommendations for Echocardiography in Pediatric Acquired Cardiovascular Disease

Comment: The leading cause of death after the first posttransplant year is transplant-related CAD. There is evidence that stress echocardiography identifies subclinical ischemia.204–213

Class I

3. Baseline and re-evaluation examinations of patients receiving cardiotoxic chemotherapy agents.

5. Patients with severe renal disease and/or systemic hypertension.

Class III

1. Routine screening echocardiogram for participation in competitive sports in patients with normal cardiovascular examination.

Section XV-I. Pediatric Acquired Cardiopulmonary Disease

Recommendations for Echocardiography in Pediatric Acquired Cardiopulmonary Disease

Comment: Echocardiography provides documentation of pulmonary artery hypertension and estimation of severity by the presence of RV dilation and/or hypertrophy, the presence of tricuspid or pulmonic valvar regurgitation, and Doppler estimation of RV systolic pressure.214,215

Class I

2. Re-evaluation after surgical intervention or initiation of oral and/or parenteral vasodilator therapy for pulmonary artery hypertension.

3. Re-evaluation during withdrawal of extracorporeal cardiopulmonary support.

Section XV-K. Transesophageal Echocardiography

Recommendations for TEE in Pediatric Patients

Comment: TEE has become particularly helpful in guiding placement of catheter-deployed devices used in closing atrial septal defects. It is essential in ensuring proper positioning of the device in the defect and assessing for residual shunts and abnormal device occlusion of venous inflow into the atria or encroachment on the atrioventricular valves. Likewise, placement of catheters for radiofrequency ablation of arrhythmogenic pathways can be facilitated by TEE when there are intracardiac abnormalities.216–222

Class I

2. Monitoring and guidance during cardiothoracic surgical procedures.

8. Patients with right atrial to pulmonary artery Fontan connection, for identification of atrial thrombus.

Class IIa

1. Patients with lateral tunnel Fontan palliation.
Section XVI. Intraoperative Echocardiography

Recommendations for Intraoperative Echocardiography

Comment: This section is new. In 1996, a task force of the American Society of Anesthesiologists/Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists (ASA/SCA) published practice guidelines for perioperative TEE. The guidelines were evidence based and focused on the effectiveness of perioperative TEE in improving clinical outcomes. A literature search conducted at that time retrieved 1844 articles, of which 588 were considered relevant to the perioperative setting. A more recent literature search identified an additional 118 articles related to the intraoperative use of echocardiography. The current text makes reference only to the latter. However, the indications for intraoperative echocardiography that are provided in these guidelines are based on both the initial ASA/SCA guidelines and the newer information.223–260

For a detailed discussion of this topic, please see the full-text version of the guidelines posted on the ACC, AHA, and American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) World Wide Web sites.

Class I

1. Evaluation of acute, persistent, and life-threatening hemodynamic disturbances in which ventricular function and its determinants are uncertain and have not responded to treatment.
2. Surgical repair of valvular lesions, hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy, and aortic dissection with possible aortic valve involvement.
3. Evaluation of complex valve replacements requiring homografts or coronary reimplantation, such as the Ross procedure.
4. Surgical repair of most congenital heart lesions that require cardiopulmonary bypass.
5. Surgical intervention for endocarditis when preoperative testing was inadequate or extension to peri- valvular tissue is suspected.
6. Placement of intracardiac devices and monitoring of their position during port-access and other cardiac surgical interventions.
7. Evaluation of pericardial window procedures in patients with posterior or loculated pericardial effusions.

Class IIa

1. Surgical procedures in patients at increased risk of myocardial ischemia, myocardial infarction, or hemodynamic disturbances.
2. Evaluation of valve replacement, aortic atheromatous disease, the Maze procedure, cardiac aneurysm repair, removal of cardiac tumors, intracardiac thrombectomy, and pulmonary embolectomy.
3. Detection of air emboli during cardiectomy, heart transplant operations, and upright neurosurgical procedures.

Class IIb

1. Evaluation of suspected cardiac trauma, repair of acute thoracic aortic dissection without valvular involvement, and anastomotic sites during heart and/or lung transplantation.
2. Evaluation of regional myocardial function during and after off-pump coronary artery bypass graft procedures.
4. Evaluation of myocardial perfusion, coronary anatomy, or graft patency.
5. Dobutamine stress testing to detect inducible demand ischemia or to predict functional changes after myocardial revascularization.
6. Assessment of residual duct flow after interruption of patent ductus arteriosus.

Class III

1. Surgical repair of uncomplicated secundum atrial septal defect.

References


51. Meluzin J, Cerny J, Frelich M, et al, on behalf of the Investigators of this Multicenter Study. Prognostic value of the amount of dysfunctional but viable myocardium in revascularized patients with coronary artery...


**KEY WORDS**: ACC/AHA Guidelines echocardiography imaging


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