Potential Value of Ultrafast Computed Tomography to Screen for Coronary Artery Disease

Committee on Advanced Cardiac Imaging and Technology, Council on Clinical Cardiology, and Committee on Newer Imaging Modalities, Council on Cardiovascular Radiology, American Heart Association

The value of ultrafast computed tomography imaging as a screening test for coronary artery calcification and underlying coronary artery disease is under investigation. Although in recent studies coronary artery calcification detected by this method has been highly predictive of the presence of atherosclerosis, the degree of atherosclerosis is highly variable and lacks precise correlation with the degree of calcification detected; therefore, the prognostic significance of the presence or absence of calcification detected by ultrafast computed tomography is unknown. The potential value and cost-effectiveness of this technique as a screening test have yet to be established and are appropriate subjects for carefully designed clinical and epidemiological investigation. Based on available evidence, clinical use of ultrafast computed tomographic imaging to screen patients for coronary artery disease is not justified at this time.

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