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Abnormal 256-Row Coronary CTA Predicts High Likelihood for Revascularization

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Background: Rate of revascularization following invasive coronary angiography (ICA) was recently reported to be low and there is a need for more accurate assessment pre-ICA. Standard 64 row CT scanners have high sensitivity for coronary artery stenosis but may lead to high false positive rates and unnecessary ICA. We assessed the rate of clinically indicated revascularizations among pts with chest pain and no known coronary artery disease (CAD) following coronary CTA (CCTA) with a new generation 256 row scanner.

Methods: During 2 year period 1012 pts with chest pain syndromes and no known CAD were referred for diagnostic 256-row CCTA. Pts with obstructive CAD (>50% diameter stenosis) or uncertain CCTA findings were referred for ICA at discretion of referring physician.

Results: 121 patients (age 59±12 years, 37% female) underwent early ICA (<60 days post CCTA). Obstructive CAD was found on ICA in 82/121 (68%) pts and 71/121 (59%) underwent revascularization (5 CABG, 66 PCI). In 50 pts post CCTA not undergoing revascularization, single vessel disease was present in 11 and no significant narrowings in 39 (calcification leading to misinterpretation in 12 of these).

Conclusions: In pts with chest pain symptoms but no known CAD, the majority of pts referred for ICA following 256 row CCTA required revascularization. The high likelihood of symptomatic pts with abnormal 256-row CCTA to undergo revascularization implies high clinical usefulness and supports expansion of its use in similar patient cohorts.

Haptoglobin Phenotype does not Predict Extent of Valvular Calcification in Diabetic Subjects

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Background: Haptoglobin (Hp) phenotype 2-2 offers reduced protection against hemoglobin-driven oxidative stress compared to Hp phenotypes 1-1 and 1-2 and predicts increased cardiovascular events in diabetes mellitus. Pathophysiology of aortic stenosis is associated with increased oxidative stress and is more common in diabetes. We postulated that diabetics with the Hp 2-2 phenotype would have a higher aortic valve (AV) calcium score than diabetics with other phenotypes.

Methods: Aortic valve calcium scores were measured by 64-slice computed tomography in 196 subjects with type-2 diabetes and no known heart disease. Haptoglobin phenotype was correlated with calcium scores.

Results: Aortic valve calcification was detected in 55% of the subjects. Haptoglobin phenotype was 1-1 in 13%, 1-2 in 44% and 2-2 in 43%. On multivariate analysis, AV calcification was predicted by coronary calcium score >100 AU (OR 5.3, 95% CI 2.09-13.4), mitral annular calcification >0 (OR 4.6, 95% CI 1.9-11.3) and older age (OR 1.15/year, 95% CI 1.07-1.23). Haptoglobin phenotype did not predict AV calcification.

Conclusions: The presence of coronary artery and mitral annular calcification, as well as increasing age, were predictors of AV calcification. Aortic valve calcification was not associated with Hp phenotype. Haptoglobin phenotype does not appear to play a role in the development of degenerative changes in the aortic valve.