The Consultant’s Job...

I keep paying you for consulting, but you never make any recommendations.

I'm what you call a "feel good."

My job is to make you feel secure in the knowledge that someone brilliant is shaping your strategies.

This is weird; I hate you, but at the same time I feel good.

You're welcome.
Cardiac Pre-Operative Evaluation

David Stultz, MD
April 3, 2007
Objectives of Conference

- Understand “Cardiac Clearance” for noncardiac surgery
- Apply Guidelines for pre-operative evaluation
- Who needs a stress test?
- Who needs a cath?
- Who can go to surgery?
Objectives of Conference

- Understand “Cardiac Clearance” for noncardiac surgery
- Apply Guidelines for preoperative evaluation
- Who needs a stress test?
- Who needs a cath?
- Who can go to surgery?
Pre-Op Cardiac Evaluation
Potentially many facets

- Coronary atherosclerosis
  - Myocardial ischemia
- Heart failure
  - Systolic
  - Diastolic
- Arrhythmia
  - Chronic
  - Pacemaker/ICD
  - Peri-operative
- Valvular disease
- Anticoagulation & Antiplatelet issues
- Congenital heart disease
Question 1

A 72-year-old man is referred for evaluation prior to abdominal aortic aneurysm surgery. He smokes and is on an ACE inhibitor for hypertension and is on lovastatin. He has no history of heart disease, and is asymptomatic. Resting heart rate is 86 bpm and BP is 165/90. ECG shows nonspecific T wave changes. Arthritis limits his activity, and he has difficulty climbing stairs. Which of the following is the most appropriate course of action?

A. Operating room with peri-operative Beta blocker  
B. Stress test  
C. Cardiac Catheterization
A 50-year-old woman is referred for evaluation prior to laparoscopic cholecystectomy. Resting BP is 150/85 in the right arm and 162/90 in the left arm. Other than mild obesity, the remainder of the physical examination is unremarkable. She has no prior history of hypertension or other significant illness. EKG shows a Right Bundle Branch Block. Her family history is positive for hypertension and stroke. She works as a salesclerk and exercises on a treadmill for half an hour three times per week.

Which of the following is the most appropriate course of action?

A. Treadmill stress echocardiogram.
B. Adenosine nuclear perfusion study.
C. MRA of renal arteries.
D. Abdominal CT with CT angiography of renal arteries.
E. Prophylactic beta-blocker therapy.
A 55-year-old with known ischemic cardiomyopathy, EF 20%, presents with acute appendicitis. Medications include an ACE inhibitor, a beta-blocker, and a diuretic. His cardiac status has been stable, with no paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea, orthopnea, or chest pain. Coronary angiography two years ago showed proximal occlusion of the LAD coronary artery. ECG shows an old anterior wall MI, unchanged compared to prior tracings. He works as a used car salesman and walks two miles around his neighborhood with his wife at least twice per week. Exam shows no rales, edema, jugular venous distention, or gallop.

Which of the following is the most appropriate course of action?

A. Preoperative coronary angiography and PCI if indicated.
B. Treadmill exercise test with either nuclear perfusion imaging or echocardiography.
C. Resting echocardiogram with EF and wall motion analysis.
D. Pulmonary artery catheter placement for intraoperative monitoring.
E. Postoperative ECG and troponin.
Why assess patients pre-operatively?

- Identify patients at risk for cardiac complications peri-operatively
  - Myocardial infarction
  - Arrhythmia
  - CHF
- Intervene to reduce the cardiac risk
- Pre-op evaluation in US is estimated to cost $3.7 billion/year
CONSULTING

If you’re not a part of the solution, there’s good money to be made in prolonging the problem.
Some facts and figures

- 27 million patients undergo surgery annually in US
- 1 million of those will have peri-operative cardiac complication
  - $20 billion/year in extra hospital/long term care costs
- Overall risk of post-op MI is <1%
  - However, it is about 6% if there is history of MI
  - Risk peaks within about 3 days post op, most MI’s are detected within 24 hours

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Surgical Stress on the Heart

Decreased Myocardial Oxygen Delivery
- anemia/hypoxemia
- hypotension
- coronary vasospasm/thrombosis

Increased Myocardial Oxygen Demand
- tachycardia
- hypertension
- increased contractility
- increased afterload

Plaque Rupture
- hemodynamic instability

Myocardial Ischemia

Partial thrombosis

Prothrombotic state of surgery

Complete thrombosis

Postoperative Myocardial Infarction
The Old Ways of Pre-op Eval

- 1947 – Dripps; assigned physical class to patients prior to anesthesia
  - 1. A healthy patient.
  - 3. A patient with a severe systemic disease that limits activity, but is not incapacitating.
  - 4. A patient with an incapacitating systemic disease that is a constant threat to life.
  - 5. A moribund patient who is not expected to survive 24 hours with or without an operation.

Note: In the event of an emergency operation, precede the number with an E.
## 1977 Goldman

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>History</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age&gt;70</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MI in past 6 months</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Physical Exam</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; Heart sound or JVD</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Important Aortic stenosis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EKG</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhythm other than sinus or PAC’s</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;5 PVC’s per minute at any time</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General status</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypoxia, renal failure, LFT abnormality</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operation</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intraperitoneal, aortic, or intrathoracic</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1986 Detsky

- Modified Goldman
- Even more complicated than Goldman
ACC 2002

- Most recent guideline for cardiac pre-operative evaluation
- Stepwise evaluation of patient
History & Physical

- History
  - What surgery?
  - Cardiac history and risk factors

- Physical
  - Neck – JVD, carotid bruits
  - Heart - 3rd or 4th heart sound, rhythm
  - Lungs – crackles
  - Extremities – edema, pulses
Step 1

- Is this emergency surgery?
- If yes, go to the OR
Step 2

- Has the patient had coronary revascularization in the last 5 years?
  - If so, does the patient have any recurrent symptoms?
  - If there are no recurrent symptoms, the patient may go to the OR
Step 3

- Has the patient had a coronary evaluation (Cardiac catheterization or stress test) in the past 2 years?
  - If results were favorable and symptoms have not changed, pt may go to OR
Step 4

- Are there any Major Clinical Predictors?
  - Unstable coronary syndrome
  - Decompensated CHF
  - Significant arrhythmia
  - Significant valvular disease

- If any of these are present then Cardiac Catheterization is a recommended strategy pre-operatively
Step 5

- Are there any Intermediate Clinical Predictors?
  - Mild angina pectoris
  - Prior MI
  - Compensated or prior CHF
  - Diabetes
  - Renal insufficiency

- If any of these are present then must stratify functional status and risk of operation

- If surgery is low risk, may proceed to OR
Intermediate clinical predictors

**STEP 6**
- Clinical predictors
  - Functional capacity
    - Poor (<4 METs)
      - High surgical risk procedure
  - Moderate or excellent (>4 METs)
    - Intermediate surgical risk procedure
  - Low surgical risk procedure

**STEP 8**
- Noninvasive testing
  - Low risk
    - Operating room
  - High risk
   - Consider coronary angiography
    - Subsequent care* dictated by findings and treatment results
- Invasive testing

---

**Intermediate Clinical Predictors†**
- Mild angina pectoris
- Prior MI
- Compensated or prior CHF
- Diabetes mellitus
- Renal insufficiency
Step 6

- What is the functional status
  - \(\geq 4\) Mets or \(< 4\) Mets
  - If \(< 4\) Mets then stress test
What’s a MET?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 MET</th>
<th>4 METs</th>
<th>Greater than 10 METs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can you take care of yourself?</td>
<td>Climb a flight of stairs or walk up a hill?</td>
<td>Participate in strenuous sports like swimming, singles tennis, football, basketball, or skiing?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eat, dress, or use the toilet?</td>
<td>Walk on level ground at 4 mph or 6.4 km per h?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk indoors around the house?</td>
<td>Run a short distance?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk a block or two on level ground at 2 to 3 mph or 3.2 to 4.8 km per h?</td>
<td>Do heavy work around the house like scrubbing floors or lifting or moving heavy furniture?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do light work around the house</td>
<td>Participate in moderate recreational activities like golf, bowling, dancing, doubles tennis, or throwing a baseball or football?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MET indicates metabolic equivalent.

*Adapted from the Duke Activity Status Index (20) and AHA Exercise Standards (96).
Step 6 (Continued)

- What is the functional status
  - $\geq 4$ Mets or $< 4$ Mets
  - If $< 4$ Mets then stress test
- If able to achieve $\geq 4$ METS:
- What is the surgical risk?
  - Low or intermediate risk, go to OR
  - High risk, go to stress test
Surgical Risk Categories

Table 3. Cardiac Risk* Stratification for Noncardiac Surgical Procedures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Reported cardiac risk often greater than 5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergent major operations</td>
<td>Particularly in the elderly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aortic and other major vascular</td>
<td>surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peripheral vascular surgery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anticipated prolonged surgical</td>
<td>procedures associated with large fluid shifts and/or blood loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Reported cardiac risk generally less than 5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carotid endarterectomy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head and neck surgery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intraperitoneal and intrathoracic</td>
<td>surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthopedic surgery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prostate surgery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low†</td>
<td>Reported cardiac risk generally less than 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endoscopic procedures</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superficial procedure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cataract surgery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breast surgery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Combined incidence of cardiac death and nonfatal myocardial infarction.  
†Do not generally require further preoperative cardiac testing.
Minor Clinical Predictors

- Advanced age
- Abnormal ECG
- Rhythm other than sinus
- Low functional capacity
- History of stroke
- Uncontrolled systemic hypertension
Step 7

- Minor or no clinical predictors
  - Advanced age
  - Abnormal EKG
  - Rhythm other than sinus
  - Low functional capacity
  - History of stroke
  - Uncontrolled hypertension
Functional status (Minor predictors)

- If moderate or excellent then proceed to OR
- If <4 METS
  - Low or intermediate risk procedure can go to OR
  - High risk procedure, go to stress test
Key differences in assessment

- **Intermediate clinical predictors**
  - If poor function, need stress before intermediate risk surgery
  - Good function needs stress test before high risk surgery

- **Low/No clinical predictors**
  - If poor function, need stress only for high risk surgery
  - Good function can proceed to high risk surgery
Shortcut for determining who needs a stress test

- If 2 of 3 are present, the patient will need a stress test
  - High risk surgery - vascular surgery
  - Intermediate clinical predictors
    - Old MI
    - DM 2
  - Poor functional class (<4 METS)
- Low risk surgeries can usually proceed without stress test
A 72-year-old man is referred for evaluation prior to abdominal aortic aneurysm surgery. He smokes and is on an ACE inhibitor for hypertension and is on lovastatin. He has no history of heart disease, and is asymptomatic. Resting heart rate is 86 bpm and BP is 165/90. ECG shows nonspecific T wave changes. Arthritis limits his activity, and he has difficulty climbing stairs.

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INEPTITUDE

If you can’t learn to do something well, learn to enjoy doing it poorly.

www.despair.com
Benefits of Revascularization prior to surgery

- Retrospective studies have looked at balloon angioplasty
  - May be beneficial when PTCA is done 90 days prior to surgery

- Retrospective bare metal stent data
  - Surgery should be delayed AT LEAST 4 weeks after stent placement
  - Drug eluting stents?

- CABG prior to surgery has shown morbidity/mortality similar to patients without CAD
**CARP**

Coronary Artery Revascularization Prophylaxis

- VA study of 510 patients undergoing vascular surgery
  - 33% Abdominal aortic aneurysm
  - 67% Lower extremity arterial occlusive disease

- Avg age 66 years, significant but stable CAD
  - Randomized to revascularization vs. med management
    - 59% PCI; 41% CABG

- Surgery delayed 54 days (vs 18 days) for revascularization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Revascularization</th>
<th>Medical Management</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postop MI</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-day mortality</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7-year mortality</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Should surgery be delayed for cardiac risk stratification?

- 1476 patients screened before elective Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm repair or lower extremity revascularization
Cardiac Risk Factors

- Age over 70 years
- Angina pectoris
- Prior myocardial infarction
  - History
  - Pathologic Q waves on electrocardiography
- Compensated congestive heart failure or a history of congestive heart failure
- Current treatment for diabetes mellitus
- Renal dysfunction (serum creatinine 1.8 mg/dl)
- Prior stroke or transient ischemic attack

Patient Selection and Risk Stratification

- 354 with 0 risk factors
- 352 with 3 or more risk factors
- 770 with 1 or 2 risk factors
  - 384 not tested
  - 386 had stress test (Dobutamine Echocardiography)
    - 287 without ischemia
    - 65 with mild ischemia (1-4 segments)
    - 34 with extensive ischemia (>4 segments)
      - 12 revascularized
        - 5 with 2 vessel disease
        - 6 with 3 vessel disease
      - 22 not revascularized

Surgical management

- Median time from screening to operation
  - 34 days without stress test
  - 53 days if stress test was performed
- Median HR decreased from 70 to 60 from screening to surgery
  - B-Blockers used liberally to control HR to <65
  - In patients with ischemia, target HR less than ischemic threshold

Outcomes

Composite myocardial infarction and cardiac death 30 days after surgery

30 Day composite
- 0.3% Low risk group (0 risk factors)
- 2.2% Intermediate risk group (1-2 RF’s)
- 8.5% High risk group (>2 RF’s)

Intermediate risk group
- 2.3% in tested group
- 1.8% in non-tested group

Tested group outcomes (Intermediate risk = 1-2 RF’s)

- Composite outcomes of intermediate risk group based on results of stress test
  - 0% no ischemia
  - 6.2% limited ischemia
  - 14.7% extensive ischemia

- Extensive ischemia group (34 patients)
  - 25% event rate not revascularized
  - 9% in revascularized group (p=0.32)

Late outcomes

- 3 year composite nonfatal MI + cardiac death
  - 0.7% low risk
  - 3.7% intermediate risk
  - 14.8% high risk

- 2 year composite outcome in intermediate risk tested patients
  - 4.3% with testing
  - 3.1% without testing (p=0.30)
Summary of Poldermans et al.

- Initial clinical risk important to predict outcomes
- Intermediate risk patients could be further risk stratified by stress test results
- Trend toward more adverse events at 2 years with the testing strategy
- Testing patients delayed surgery
- Revascularization trended to improve cardiovascular outcomes
  - Small number of patients studied
  - 22 not revascularized vs 12 revascularized

DIPOM - Routine perioperative Beta Blockade is not beneficial for diabetic patients

- 921 Beta blocker naïve diabetics undergoing noncardiac surgery given placebo vs metoprolol succinate (Toprol XL) 50mg day 1 then 100mg daily throughout hospitalization (up to 8 days)
- Surgery on day 2
- Composite outcome of all cause mortality, acute myocardial infarction, unstable angina, or congestive heart failure discovered or aggravated during admission to hospital

POBBLE – Routine perioperative use of Beta blockers for infrarenal vascular surgery does not change cardiovascular outcomes at 30 days
* But they do reduce length of stay

- 103 patients undergoing infrarenal vascular surgery (38% AAA, 29% bypass)
- Placebo vs metoprolol tartrate 50mg bid for up to 7 days
- Composite MI, Unstable Angina, stroke, VT, death in 30 days 34% placebo vs 32% metoprolol
- Hospital stay median 10 days metoprolol vs 12 days placebo (P<0.02)

Summary of DIPOM and POBBLE

- Beta blockers not beneficial for routine use in all diabetic patients
- Hospital stay reduced by use of peri-operative beta blockers
- Both studies used brief courses of metoprolol (7-8 days)

Statins reduce cardiovascular complications in patients undergoing vascular surgery

- Retrospective analysis of 1163 patients undergoing vascular surgery
  - 31% Carotid
  - 15% Aortic
  - 54% Lower extremity
- 45% on statin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N = number of patients with complication</th>
<th>Receiving Statins (n =52)</th>
<th>Not Receiving Statins (n =105)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Death</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myocardial infarction</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other ischemia</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHF</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VT</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Peri-operative Beta Blockade
NEJM, July 2005

- Large retrospective review of 782,969 patients
  - 663,635 (85 percent) had no recorded contraindications to beta-blockers
  - 122,338 (18 percent) received Beta blocker during the first two hospital days
    - 14% with RCRI of 0
    - 44% with RCRI of >=4
- RCRI 0 or 1, treatment of no benefit, possible harm
- RCRI of 2, odds ratio of death in hospital 0.88
- RCRI of 3, odds ratio of death in hospital 0.71
- RCRI of >=4, odds ratio of death in hospital 0.58

Revised Cardiac Risk Index

(Circulation 1999; 100:1043-1049)

Each risk factor is assigned one point.

1. High-risk surgical procedures
   - Intraperitoneal
   - Intrathoracic
   - Suprainguinal vascular

2. History of ischemic heart disease
   - History of myocardial infarction
   - History of positive exercise test
   - Current complaint of chest pain considered secondary to myocardial ischemia
   - Use of nitrate therapy
   - ECG with pathological Q waves

3. History of congestive heart failure
   - History of congestive heart failure
   - Pulmonary edema
   - Paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea
   - Bilateral rales or S3 gallop
   - Chest radiograph showing pulmonary vascular redistribution

4. History of cerebrovascular disease
   - History of transient ischemic attack or stroke

5. Preoperative treatment with insulin

6. Preoperative serum creatinine > 2.0 mg/dL

RISK OF MAJOR CARDIAC EVENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Risk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 or more</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Major cardiac event” includes myocardial infarction, pulmonary edema, ventricular fibrillation, primary cardiac arrest, and complete heart block.
Peri-operative Beta Blockade

NEJM, July 2005

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CONSISTENCY

It’s Only a Virtue if You’re Not a Screwup.
Other Peri-operative measures

- Routine use of Swan-Ganz (pulmonary artery) catheters has not been shown to improve outcome
- Nitroglycerin may decrease ischemia, but has not been shown to decrease MI or mortality
- Alpha-2 Agonists (Clonidine) *may* be beneficial in patients with CAD
Pearls for the Boards

- Emergencies go straight to OR!
- Remember – Revascularization in past 5 years or favorable stress test/cath in past 2 years with stable symptoms = OR
- Direct path to Catheterization is ONLY indicated with major clinical predictors
- Low risk surgery can usually go to OR
- High risk (vascular) surgery needs a stress test (per guidelines) unless low risk patient with >4 METS of function
- Good functional status + intermediate risk surgery = OR
- Carotid endarterectomy is a moderate risk procedure
Unresolved issues

- Few randomized trials for PCI
- ? Timing after PCI
  - PTCA – 90 days?
  - Bare metal stent – 4 weeks?
  - Drug eluting stent
- Optimal timing and duration of Beta blocker therapy
Summary of perioperative treatments

- Beta blockers should be started in patients at intermediate or high risk
- Patients already taking beta blockers should continue them

- Recent trials have questioned the value of risk stratification.
  - Does risk stratification really change outcomes?
  - Does revascularization change outcomes?

- Risk stratification remains important to determine appropriate risk-benefit of surgery, and to guide appropriate medical therapy
Noninvasive options

- Exercise EKG
- Nuclear Imaging
- Stress echocardiography
- PET
- Electron Beam CT
- CT (16/64 slice) & MRI
Ischemic Cascade
Exercise EKG
The basic “stress test”

- Patient exercises on treadmill or bicycle
  - Bruce protocol common for treadmill
    - Start at 1.7 mph at 10% grade
    - Increase about 0.8 mph and 2% every 3 minutes

- EKG monitoring performed throughout

- Patient must achieve 85% of maximum predicted HR for valid results
  - Max HR = 220 - Age
Patients who should not have EKG only

- These lead to uninterpretable EKG or have high rate of false positives
  - Left Bundle Branch Block
  - Wolf-Parkinson-White (Ventricular pre-excitation)
  - Left Ventricular hypertrophy with strain
  - Ventricular pacing
  - Digoxin use
Positive EKG Stress

- PQ segment used as reference baseline
- Identify J point as junction of QRS complex and ST segment
- Measure ST changes 60-80 ms after J point
- $\geq 0.1$mm of ST depression that is horizontal or downsloping
- 0.1mm ST depression with upsloping may be equivocal
Comparison of ST segment response

- A = Slowly Upsloping ST segment depression
- B = Horizontal ST segment depression
- C = ST depression with downsloping
Exercise EKG

- 1 in 2500 risk of death or MI\(^1\)
- Sensitivity about 68%, Specificity about 77%\(^2\) (using 50% stenosis by cath as gold standard)
- Functional capacity assessed by METS
- BP expected to rise with exercise
- Poor heart rate recovery (HR decrease <12bpm 2 minutes after peak exercise) has negative prognosis
- Location of ST depressions does not anatomically localize coronary lesions

1 DiMarco
2 Gianrossi
Exercise testing in Females

- Increased incidence of false positives compared to males\(^1\)
  - CASS data shows sensitivity similar for women (76%) and men (78%)
  - However, specificity for women (64%) lower than for men (73%)

- Functional information is important
  - Females achieving 7.5 METS have same 20 year mortality prognosis with or without ST depression\(^2\)

\(^1\) Wiener
\(^2\) Mora
Nuclear Stress Test

- Basic concepts
  - Images the heart at rest and stress
  - Compare images to determine if coronary perfusion is reduced with stress
  - Scar areas revealed by lack of perfusion at rest
  - Gating techniques allow calculation of ejection fraction
Nuclear Stress Testing

- Choice of stress agents
  - Exercise
  - Pharmacological
    - Dobutamine
      - $\beta$-1 agonist which increases contractility, cardiac index, and oxygen consumption
    - Vasodilators
      - Adenosine
        - Direct vasodilator
      - Dipyridamole (Persantine)
        - Indirect vasodilator (enhances endogenous adenosine)
Nuclear Stress Testing

- **Choice of Imaging Agents**
  - Thallium-201
    - K+ analogue
  - Technitium-99m
    - Sestamibi (Cardiolite)
    - Tetrofosmin (Myoview)
  - Improved image resolution due to higher energy
    - Obesity
Short axis View of the Heart
Reversible ischemia of anterior, lateral, and inferior walls with LV dilatation
Prognosis

Annual Rate of Death or MI with Normal and Abnormal SPECT scans using Tc-99m
Nuclear Stress Testing

- Overall sensitivity 88%, specificity 85%
- Adenosine and dipyrimadole are contraindicated in bronchospastic disease
Stress Echocardiography

- Basic Principles
  - Imaging the heart at stress and rest
  - Evaluate for wall motion abnormalities at stress
  - Can identify akinetic scar areas
  - Dependent on adequate acoustic windows
Stress Echocardiography

- Pick a method of stress
  - Exercise
  - Dobutamine
- 81% Sensitivity, 92% specificity for at least 50% stenosis by angiography
Overall performance of stress tests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sensitivity</th>
<th>Specificity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stress EKG</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stress Echo</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuclear</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>90%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Other Methods of Stress Imaging

- MRI
  - Dobutamine MRI similar to Dobutamine echo in premise
  - Better imaging, does not depend on acoustic windows

- PET
  - Similar to other nuclear imaging
  - Not widely available
Non Stress Imaging
Protocols for evaluation of coronary and bypass graft stenoses

- Multidetector CT angiography
  - 16 and 64 slice detectors in use
  - Iodinated contrast, ionizing radiation
- MRI (coronary)
  - Not widely available
  - Long acquisition times
- Both susceptible to artefacts during tachycardia
- Both techniques are in further development
- Compared to angiography (>50% stenosis)
  - MRI 75% sensitivity, 77% specificity
  - CT (16 slice) 82% sensitivity, 79% specificity

Electron Beam CT

- Not a stress test
- Noninvasive evaluation of coronary calcification
- ACC 2000 guidelines essentially do not recommend use of EBCT
- USPSTF recommends against using EBCT to screen asymptomatic patients
- Probably best employed in asymptomatic patients – but studies not conclusive on indications or long term prognosis

J Am Coll Cardiol 2000;36:326-40

References