

# Update on Coronary CTA, Heartflow CT- FFR and Plaque Analysis

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# CTA – Easy and Efficient

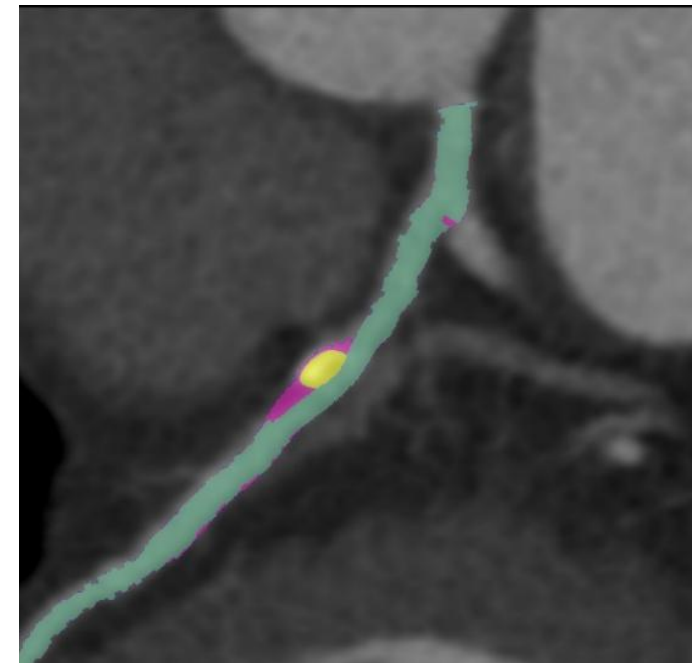
- 0.5-0.625 mm slices
- Single Breath-hold Imaging
- 50-60 cc Non-ionic (IODINATED) contrast
- 20 minute procedure
- 5-15 minute interpretation
- High Throughput

# Radiation Dose with CT

- Calcium scan: 0.5-0.6 mSv
- Mammography: 0.7 mSv
- 64 Slice CT Angiogram: 9 mSv
  
- 256 CT Angiography: **1-3 mSv**
- Background Radiation: 3 mSv/year
- Coronary Angiogram: Avg 8 mSv (2-10)
- Nuclear Imaging: 9-41 mSv

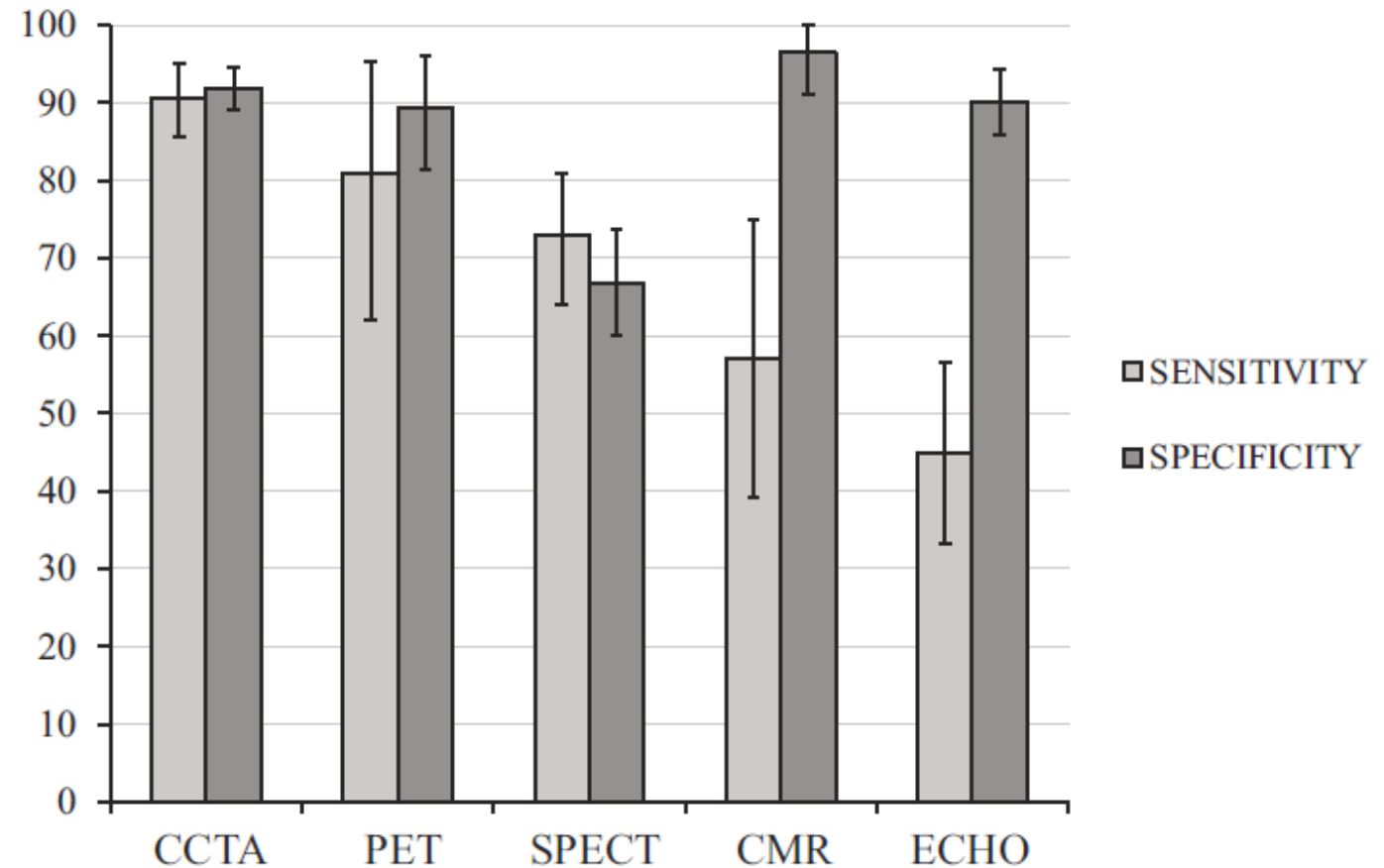
# Cardiac exam 0.6 mSv

HR: 69bpm, Cardiac Phase: 75%



\* Obtained using a chest factor of  $0.014 * DLP$

# EVINCI Study Circ 2015



**Figure 3.** Sensitivity and specificity of noninvasive imaging techniques.

CCTA indicates coronary computed tomography angiography; CMR, cardiac magnetic resonance; ECHO, echocardiography; PET, positron emission tomography; and SPECT, single-photon computed emission tomography.

# SCOT-HEART 5-Year Analysis: cCTA-first pathway improves outcomes

- 4,146 patients across the UK randomized between cCTA or standard care
- Early data showed impact of using cCTA for diagnosis, treatment, etc.

## Key Findings

41% lower death & MI rate in cCTA group than in standard care group at 5 years

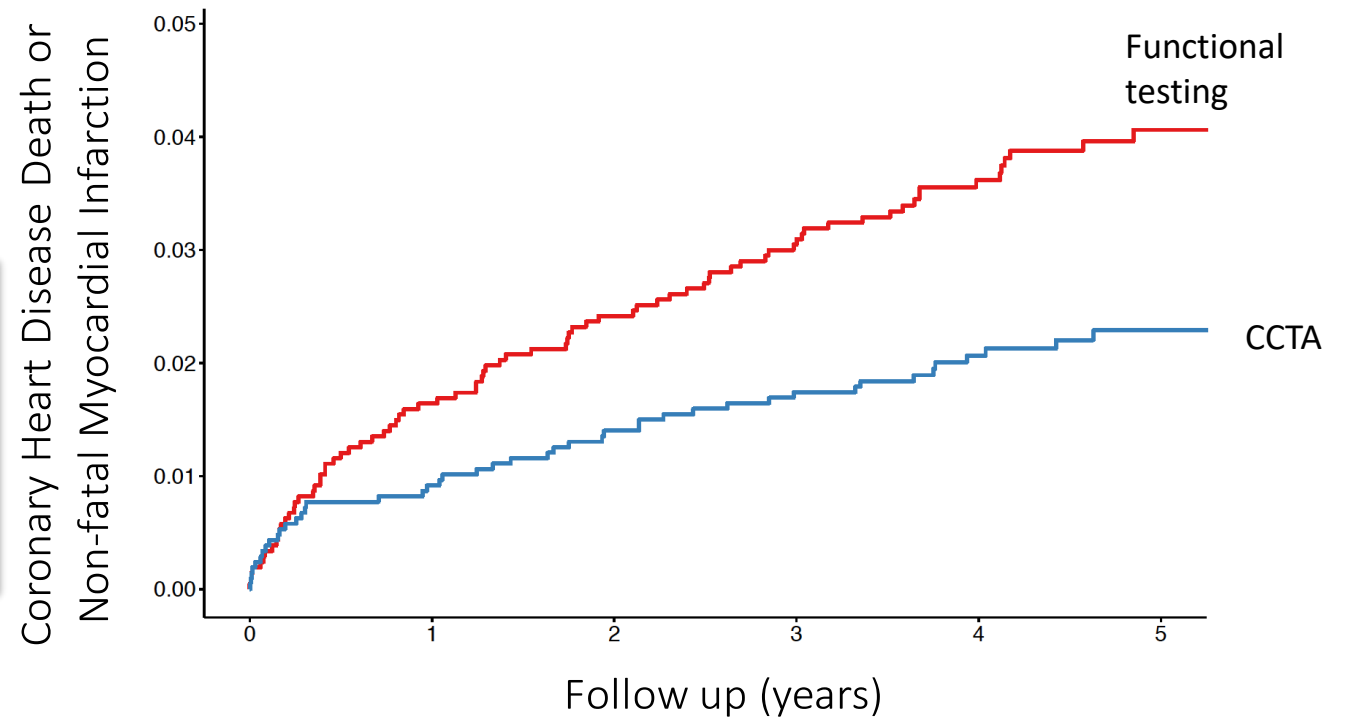
The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Coronary CT Angiography and 5-Year Risk of Myocardial Infarction

The SCOT-HEART Investigators\*

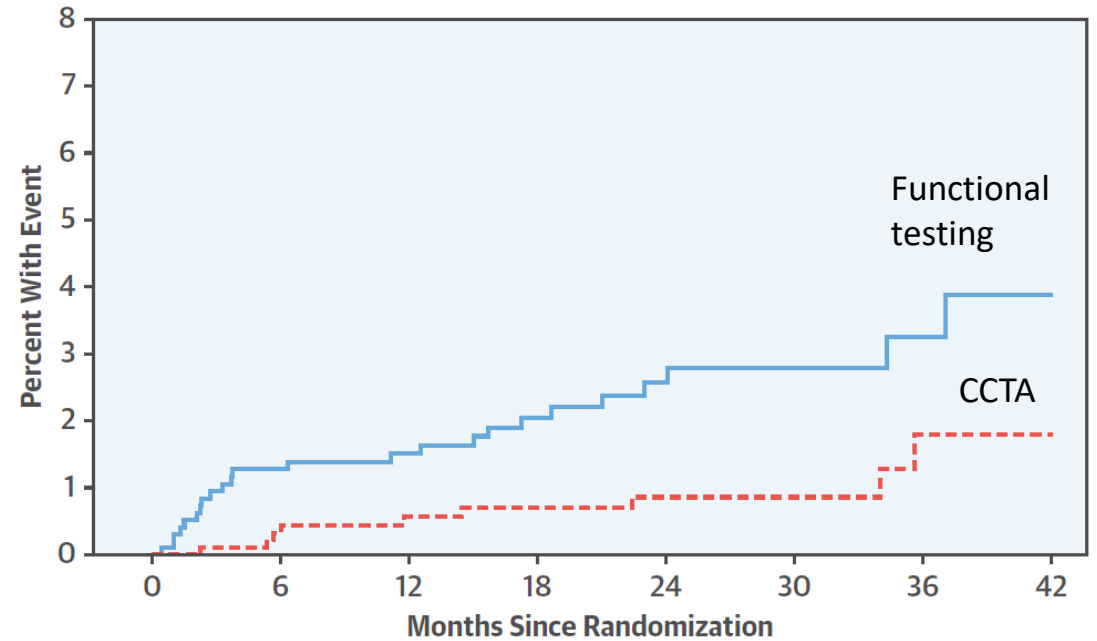
Newby et al, NEJM 2018



# Promise DM JACC 2019

**CENTRAL ILLUSTRATION** Composite of Cardiovascular Death/Myocardial Infarction by Randomized Noninvasive Testing Modality and Diabetes History: Kaplan-Meier Curves

## A Patients With Diabetes



Baseline (0)	6 Mo.	12 Mo.	18 Mo.	24 Mo.	30 Mo.	36 Mo.	42 Mo.
936	894	823	667	505	340	170	58
972	888	804	651	452	297	172	54

hazard ratio: 0.38; 95% confidence interval: 0.18 to 0.79; p = 0.01



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

# Intermediate-High Risk Patients With Stable Chest Pain and No Known CAD

Recommendations for Intermediate-High Risk Patients With Stable Chest Pain and No Known CAD		
Referenced studies that support the recommendations are summarized in Online Data Supplements 29 and 30.		
Index Diagnostic Testing: Selecting the Appropriate Test		
COR	LOE	Recommendations
Anatomic Testing		
1	A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. For intermediate-high risk patients with stable chest pain and no known CAD, CCTA is effective <u>for diagnosis of CAD, for risk stratification, and for guiding treatment decisions.</u></li></ol>

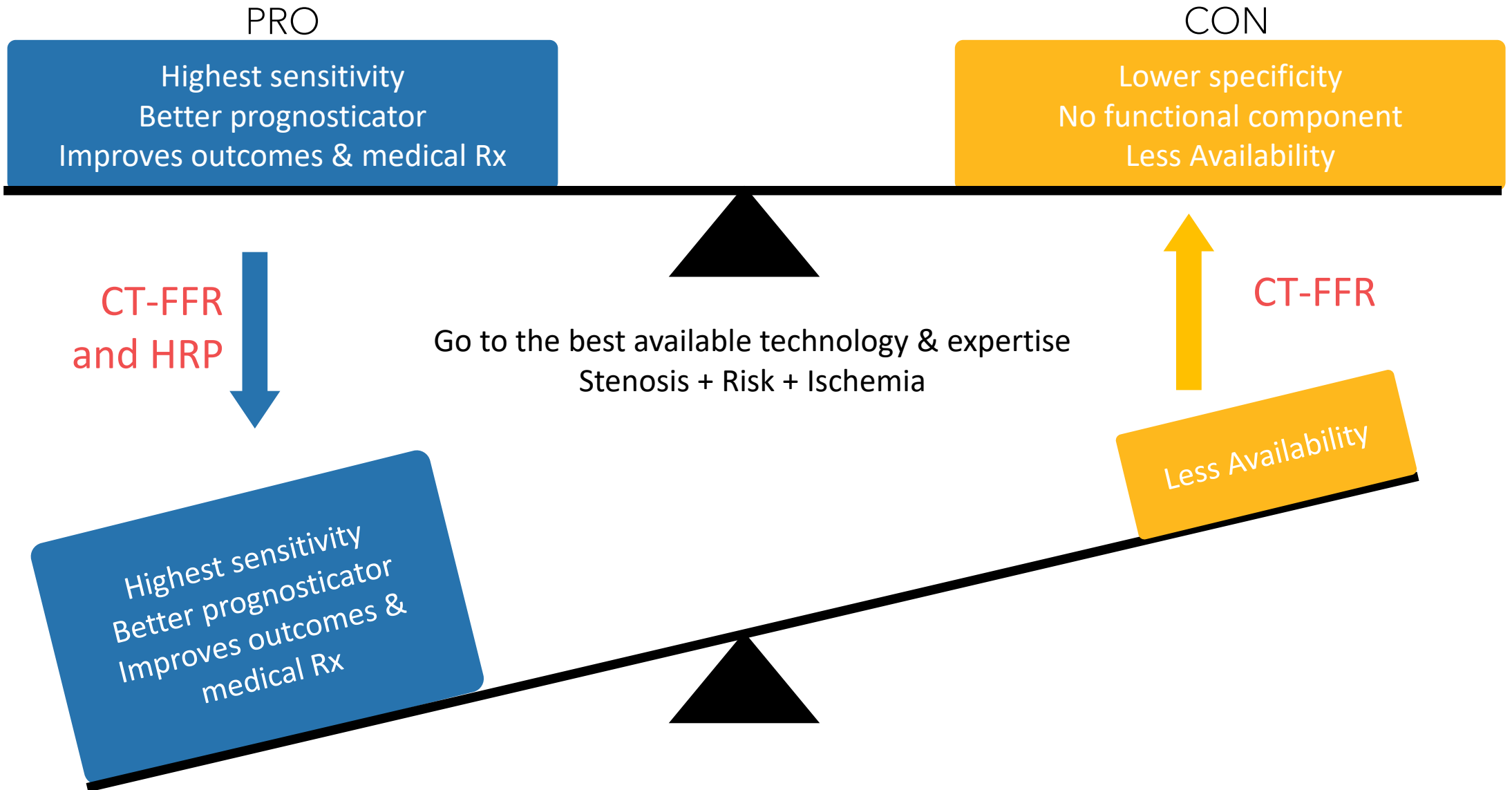
# Intermediate-Risk Patients With Acute Chest Pain and No Known CAD (con't.)

Stress Testing		
1	B-NR	4. For intermediate-risk patients with acute chest pain and no known CAD who are eligible for cardiac testing, either exercise ECG, stress echocardiography, stress PET/SPECT MPI, or stress CMR is useful for the <u>diagnosis of myocardial ischemia.</u>

# Why is CTA- Superior?

- Superior test performance
  - ↓ false negative test results/untreated CAD
    - ↓ coronary events
- Better detection of non-obstructive CAD
  - Improved preventive treatment and adherence
- Longer 'warranty' period with fewer repeat tests
  - ↓ hospitalizations during follow up

# NICE Guideline: The Scales of CTA Evidence



# Identifying appropriate patients for the CCTA + FFR<sub>CT</sub> Pathway

## ACC/AHA CHEST PAIN GUIDELINES



CCTA is the **ONLY** Class 1 non-invasive test with Level A evidence.

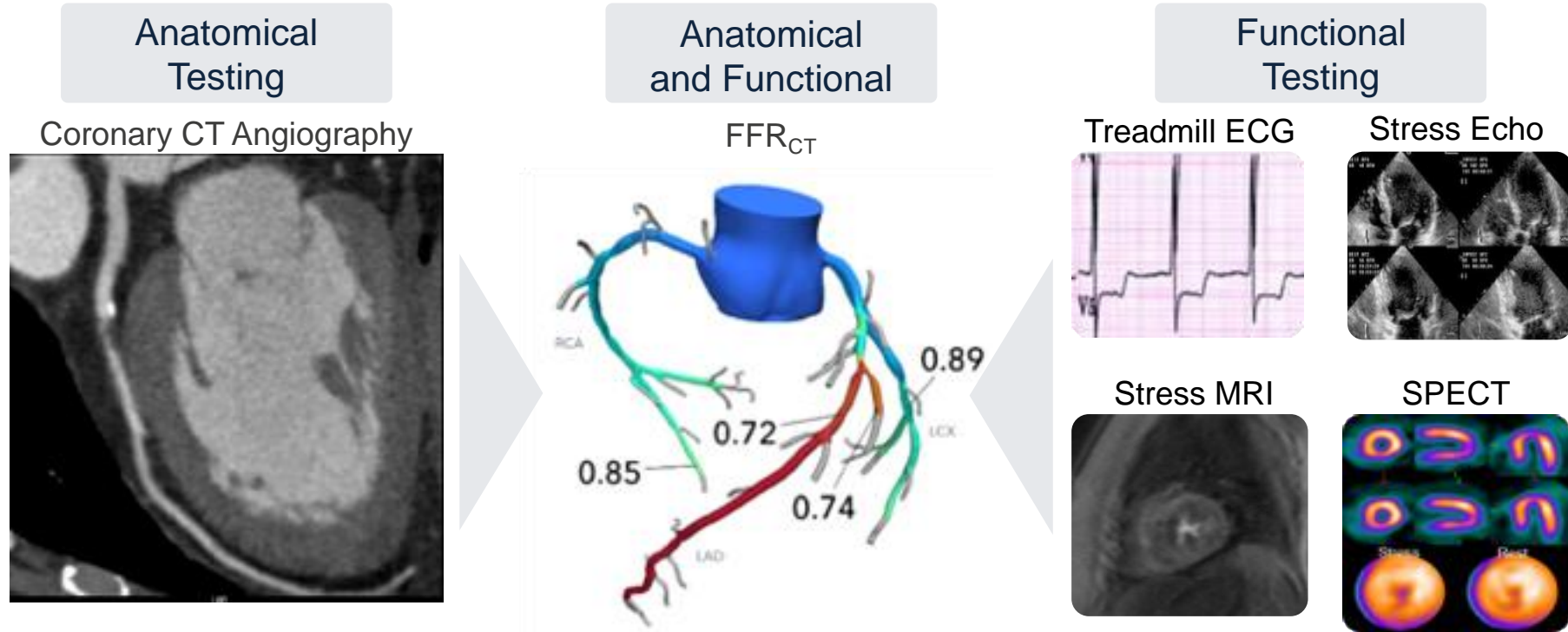


FFR<sub>CT</sub> is designated as Class 2a with Level B evidence and provides actionable information across a broad range of patient populations.

CCTA+FFR<sub>CT</sub> can be ordered across a broad patient population including those with known or suspected CAD with stable or acute chest pain

“For intermediate-risk patients with acute chest pain and no known CAD, with a coronary artery **stenosis of 40% to 90%** in a proximal or middle coronary artery on CCTA, FFR<sub>CT</sub> can be useful for the diagnosis of vessel-specific ischemia and to guide decision-making regarding the use of coronary revascularization”

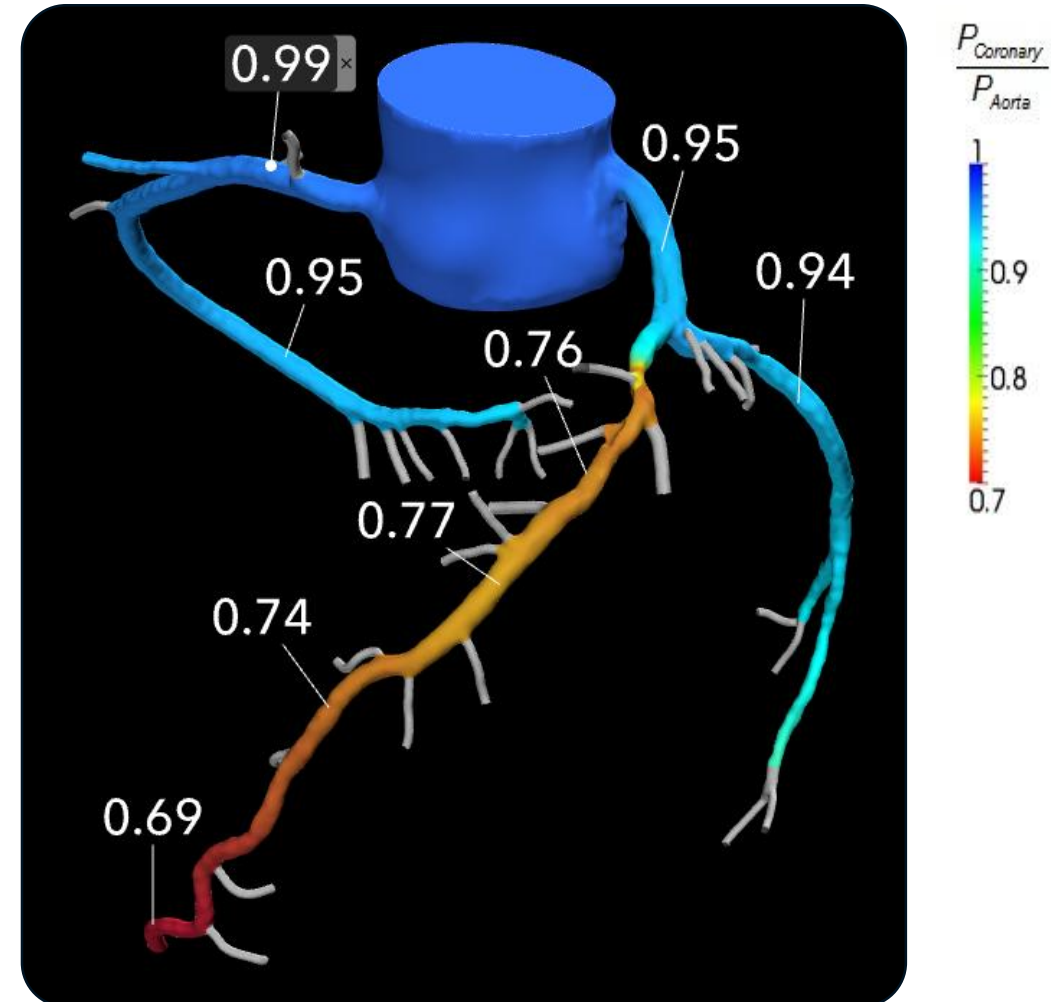
# Imaging in Coronary Artery Disease — Hope of Combining Anatomy and Function



# Physiology from CT is a reality

1. From typical CCTA
2. No radiation
3. No  $\Delta$  image protocols
4. No medications

3D FFR<sub>CT</sub> map computed



# New Guidelines Elevate CTA & FFR<sub>CT</sub> as Frontline Tests



## 2021 ACC/AHA Guidelines<sup>1</sup>

Patients with stable chest pain



### Coronary CTA

To diagnose CAD and guide treatment decisions

**Class 1 Recommendation**  
Level A Evidence



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

To help guide treatment decisions

**Class 2a Recommendation**  
Level B Evidence



## 2024 ESC Guidelines<sup>2</sup>

Patients with chronic coronary syndrome



### Coronary CTA

To diagnose CAD in patients with suspected coronary artery disease

**Class 1 Recommendation**  
Level A Evidence



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

In high-risk cases, stenosis >70% in proximal LAD

**Class 2a Recommendation**  
Level B Evidence

2a

B-NR

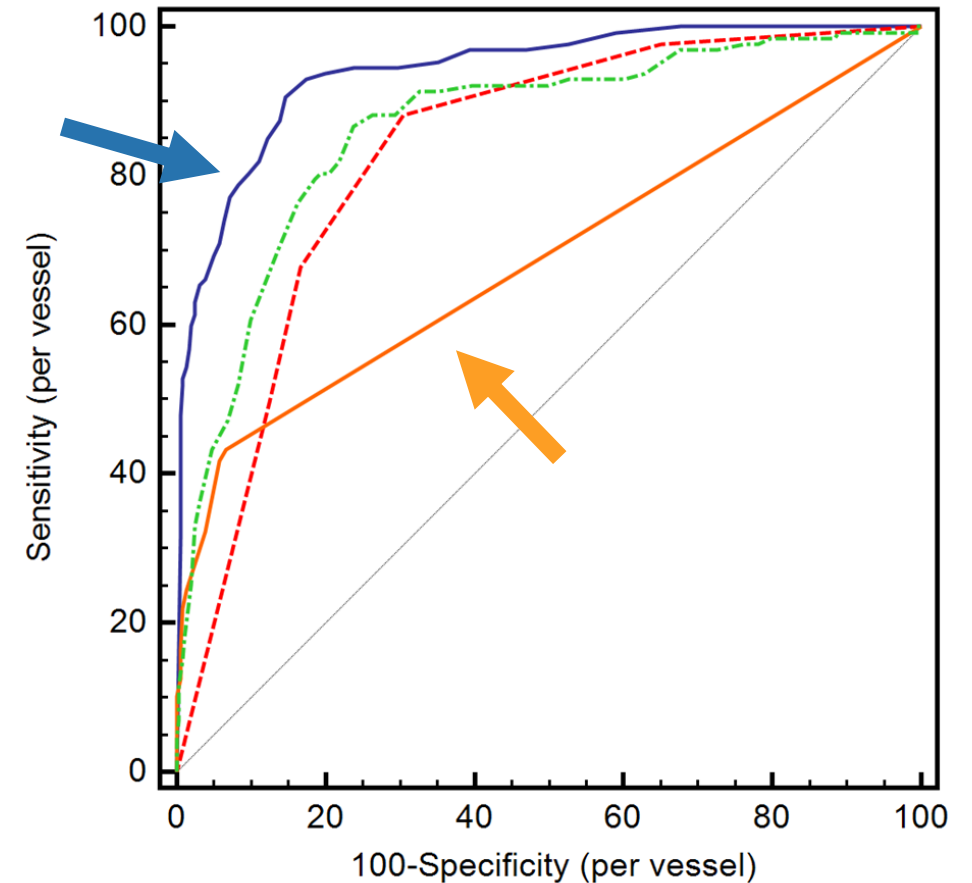
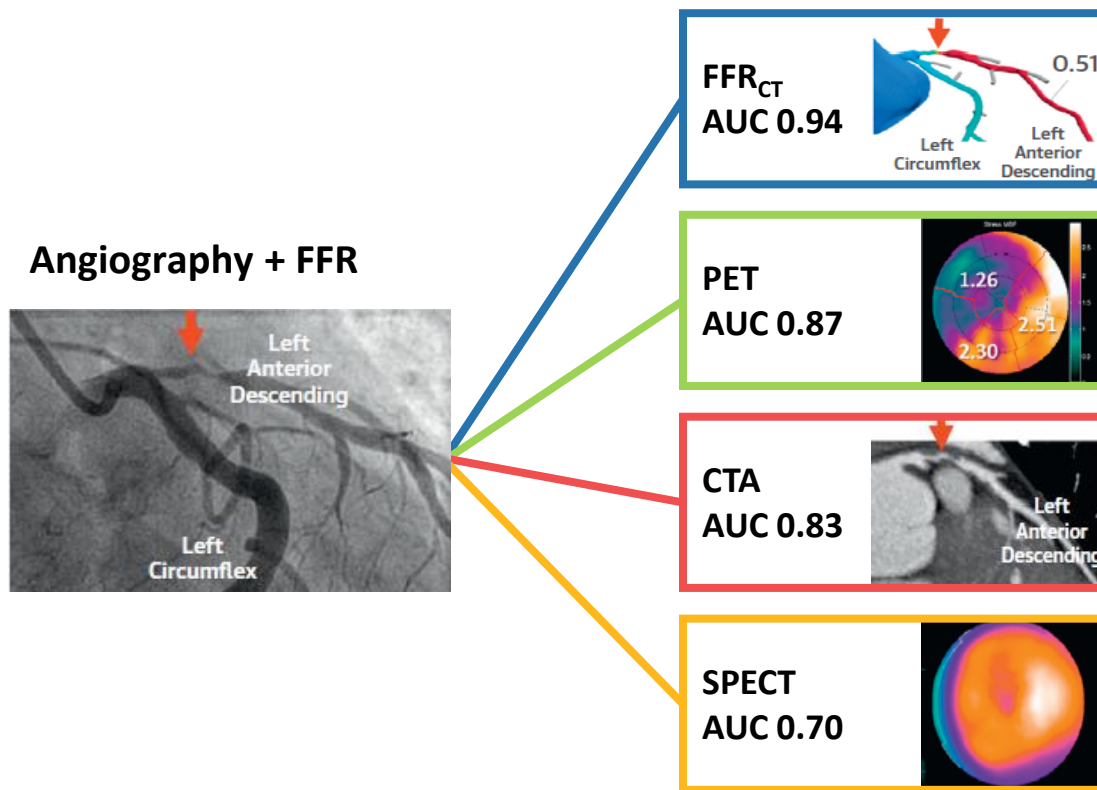
## ACC/AHA Guidelines Anatomic Testing<sup>1</sup>

For patients with known coronary stenosis from 40% to 90% on CCTA, FFR can be useful for diagnosis of vessel-specific ischemia and to guide decision-making regarding the use of ICA

1. Gulati M, et al. Circulation. 2021;144(22):e368-e454. doi:10.1161/CIR.0000000000001029  
2. Vrints C, et al. Eur Heart J. 2024;45(36):3415-3537. doi:10.1093/eurheartj/ehae177

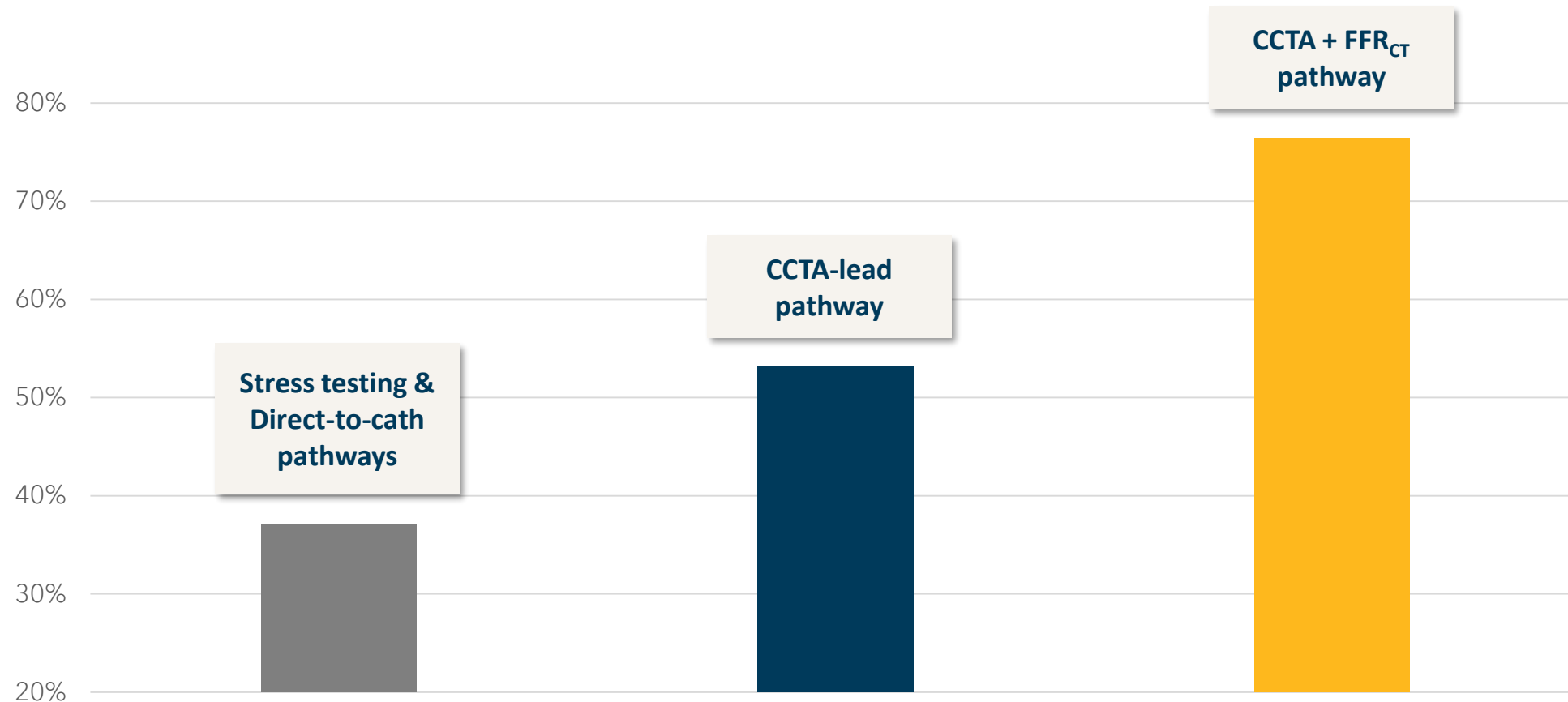
# CCTA with physiology assessment had the highest diagnostic performance

## Discriminative ability for the detection of per per-vessel FFR-defined ischemia



# CCTA + FFR<sub>CT</sub> Enables Increased Cath Lab Efficiency

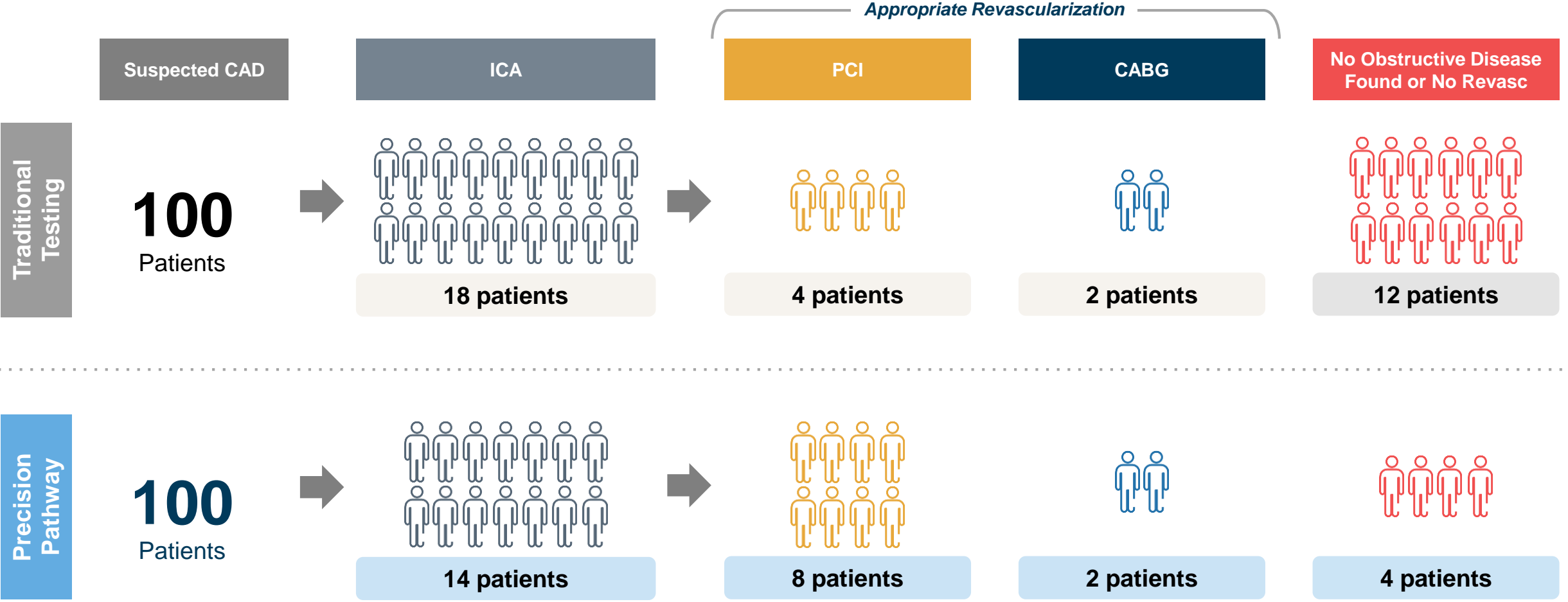
## Revascularization: ICA Ratio in Stable Chest Pain Patients



1. Curzen N, et al. Eur Heart J. 2021;42(37):3844-3852. doi:10.1093/eurheartj/ehab444
2. Douglas PS, et al. N Engl J Med. 2015;372(14):1291-1300. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa1415516
3. Curzen NP, et al. JACC Cardiovasc Imaging. 2016;9(10):1188-1194. doi:10.1016/j.jcmg.2015.12.026
4. Patel MR, et al. JACC Cardiovasc Imaging. 2020;13(1 Pt 1):97-105. doi:10.1016/j.jcmg.2019.03.003

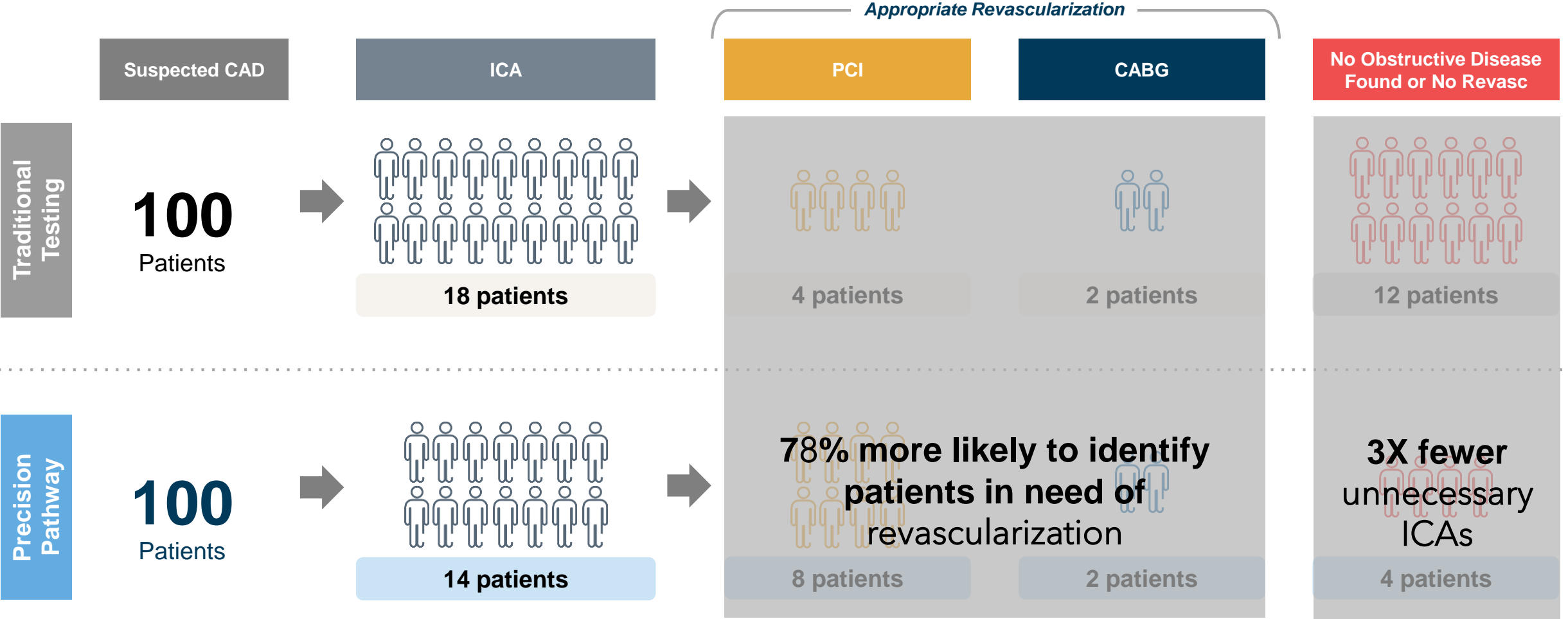
5. SCOT-HEART Investigators, et al. N Engl J Med. 2018;379(10):924-933. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa1805971
6. Douglas PS, et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2016;68(5):435-445. doi:10.1016/j.jacc.2016.05.057
7. Lu MT, et al. JACC Cardiovasc Imaging. 2017;10(11):1350-1358. doi:10.1016/j.jcmg.2016.11.024

# The Precision Pathway enables clinicians to perform more of the right interventions in the right patients



PRECISE trial - Presented at AHA 2022  
 ICA: 16.9% TT, 12.8% PP  
 PCI: 3.5%, 7.3% PP  
 CABG: 1.7% TT, 2.0% PP

# The CCTA + FFR<sub>CT</sub> Pathway leads to more high-value, clinically indicated interventions in the right patients

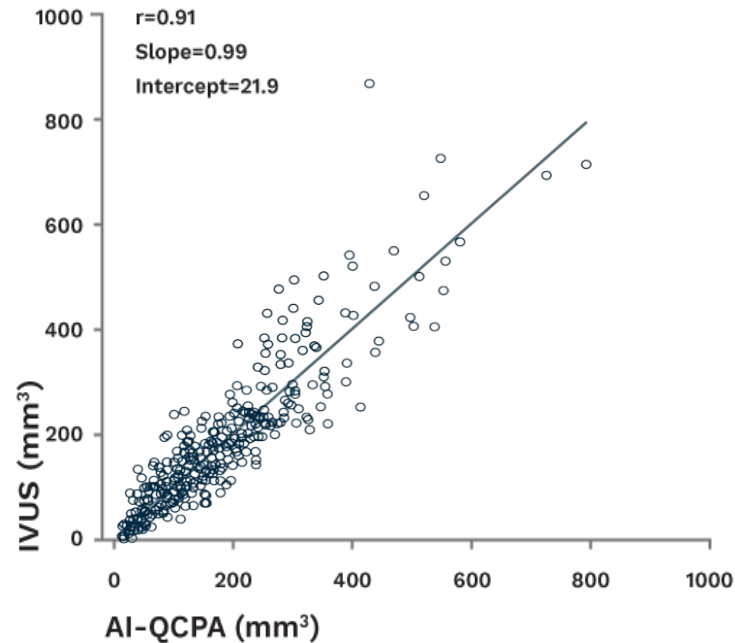
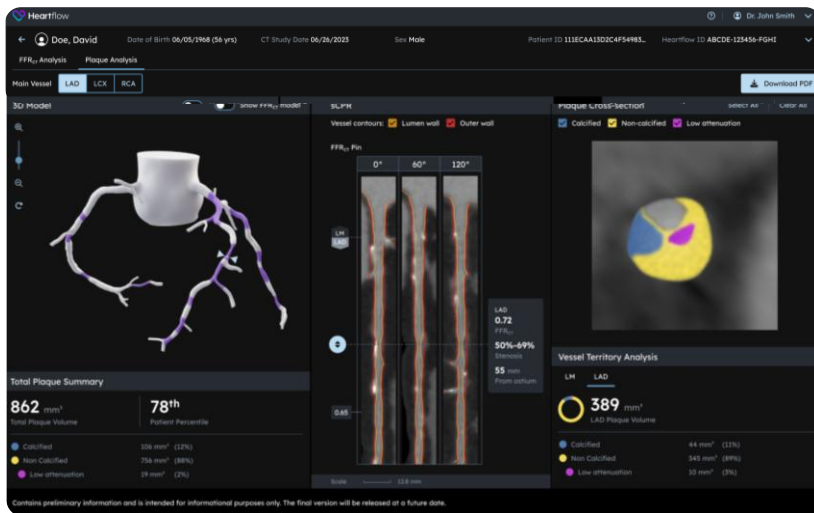


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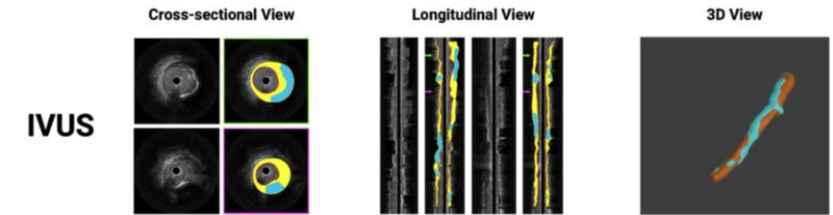
# Only a Clinically Validated Tool Can Set the Standard

## REVEALPLAQUE Study

The Heartflow Plaque Analysis is the only product with prospective, blinded RCT, published showing **95% agreement with IVUS** to quantify and characterize coronary plaque.

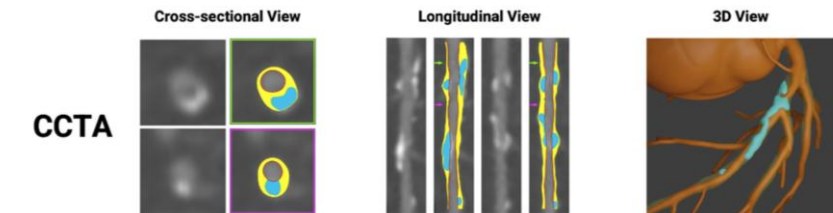


Total Plaque Volume per lesion  
Heartflow Plaque from CCTA vs. Core Lab Plaque from IVUS



### CCTA vs IVUS Plaque Volume Correlations

Total Plaque Volume	0.91
Calcified Plaque Volume	0.91
Non-calcified Plaque Volume	0.87



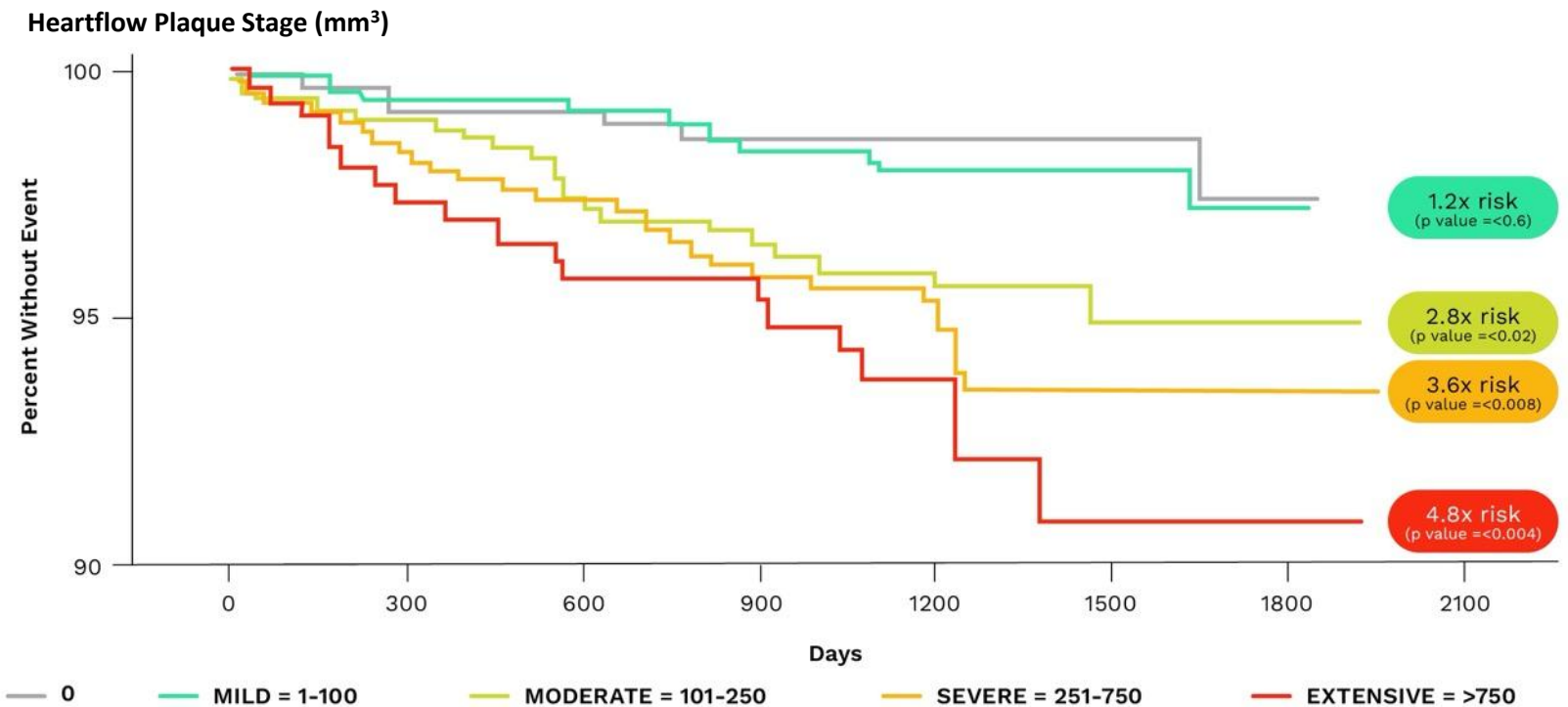
# Plaque staging informs cardiovascular outcomes

## Study Design

- 2,827 patients from FISH&CHIPS Liverpool cohort were stratified according to Heartflow Plaque Staging\* based on total plaque volume
- Patient outcomes (CV death and MI) were reviewed out to 3.3 yrs (median)

## FISH&CHIPS Liverpool: Prediction of Cardiovascular Outcomes

Results: Higher TPV-based stages were associated with statistically significant higher CV event rates even after adjusting for risk factors, stenosis, and  $FFR_{CT}^{**}$



# Parsa et al – AJPC 2026

## Population

 FISH & CHIPS



Patients undergoing clinically indicated CCTA for suspected or known stable CAD

- N= 6,054 with coronary plaque
- Mean age ~59 years
- 43% women

## AI-Enabled Plaque Assessment → Risk Staging

Total plaque volume (TPV)-guided personalized prevention



	DECIDE Stages based on TPV (mm <sup>3</sup> )	LDL-C Goal (mg/dL)
Stage 1	1-100	<100
Stage 2	101-250	<70
Stage 3	251-750	<55
Stage 4	>750	<40

## Predicted NNT at 10 Years

	NNT
Stage 1	1,686
Stage 2	59
Stage 3	27
Stage 4	11

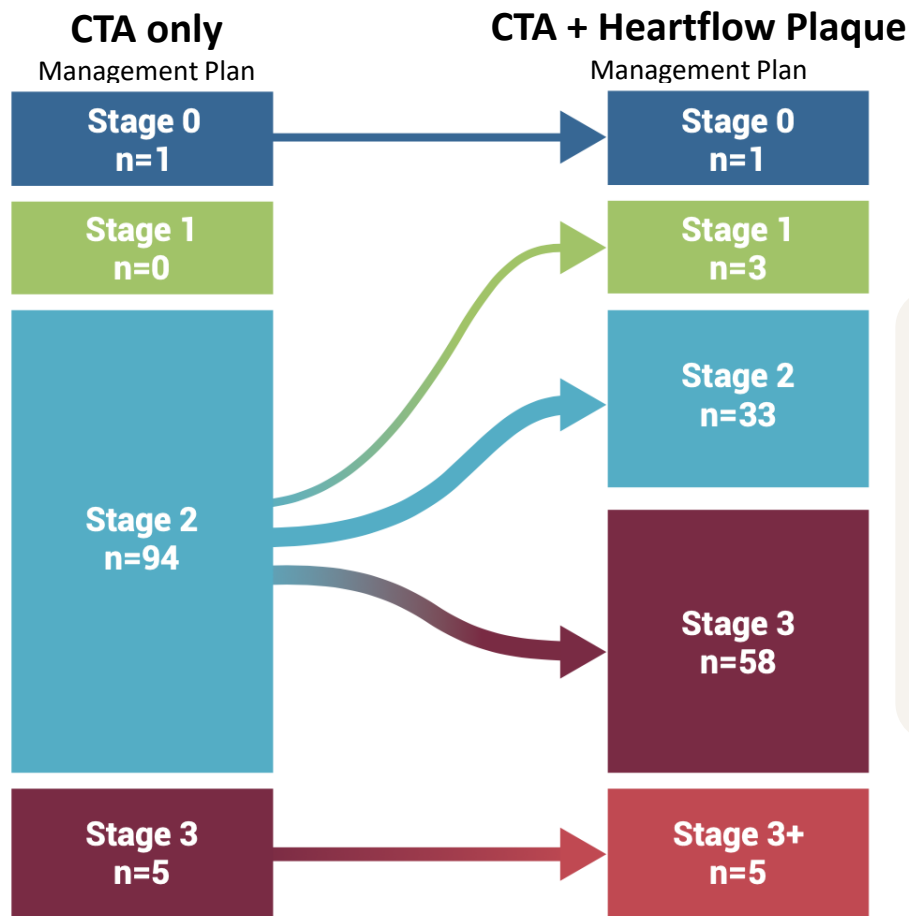
**Overall 10-year impact:**  
19% relative risk reduction ↓  
NNT= 61

## Conclusion

AI-derived total plaque volume from CCTA enables personalized lipid-lowering strategies that substantially reduce long-term cardiovascular risk.

# Guide patient treatment with plaque quantification

**DECODE Results:** 2 out of 3 patients (66%) received a refined management plan following physician review of the Heartflow Plaque Analysis



Three practicing cardiologists with level 3 CTA reading certification assessed 100 patients based on patient demographics, clinical history, and CCTA report

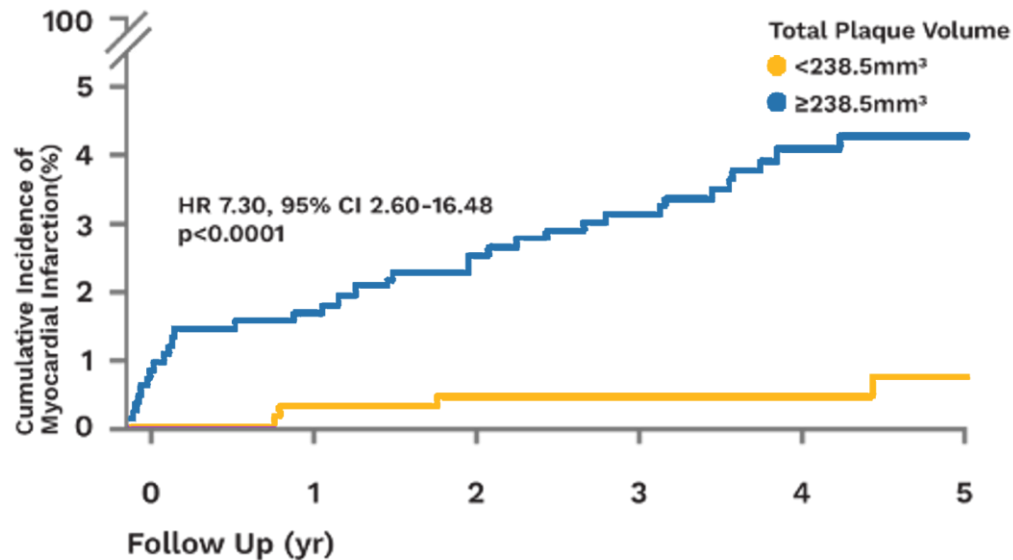
Nearly **50% of patients** with a CACS of 0 were reclassified.

Stage	Treatment
0	GDMT
1	Low-dose Statin
2	High-intensity statin +/- PCSK-9 inhibitor
3	High-intensity statin +/- PCSK-9 inhibitor + additional medications

# Plaque Quantification & Characterization Improves Risk Stratification

**Prognostic:** Total plaque volume (TPV) is a strong predictor of MI

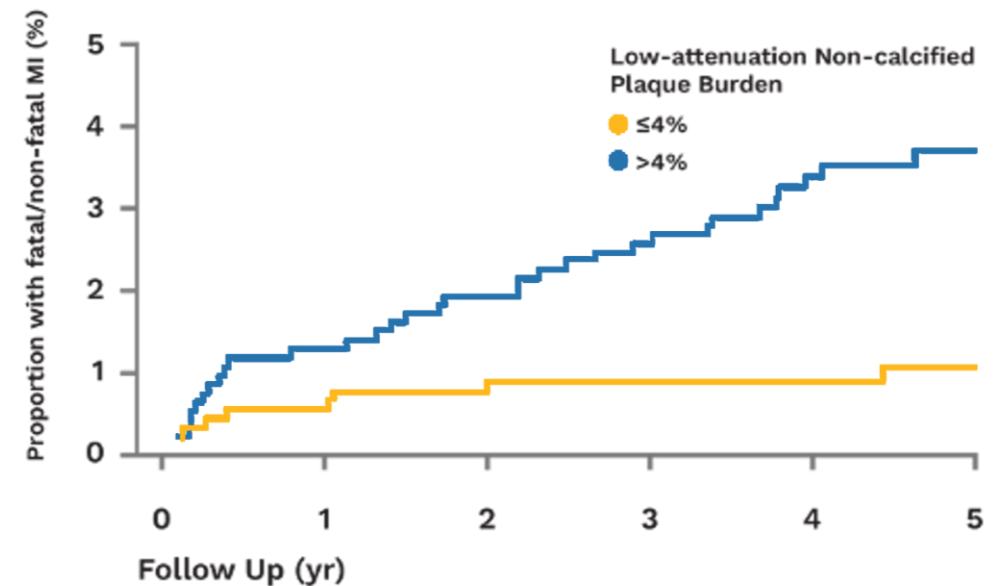
- Independent of CV risk score, CAC, or stenosis<sup>1</sup>



## No. at Risk

<238.5mm <sup>3</sup>	700	698	694	554	314
≥238.5mm <sup>3</sup>	895	884	873	690	383

**Characterization:** Low-attenuation plaque (LAP) presence is the strongest predictor of MI (4.65x HR)<sup>2</sup>



## Low-attenuation Non-calcified Plaque Burden

≤4%	862 (100)	859 (99)	849 (98)	659 (76)	360 (42)
>4%	895 (99)	885 (98)	874 (96)	694 (77)	383 (42)

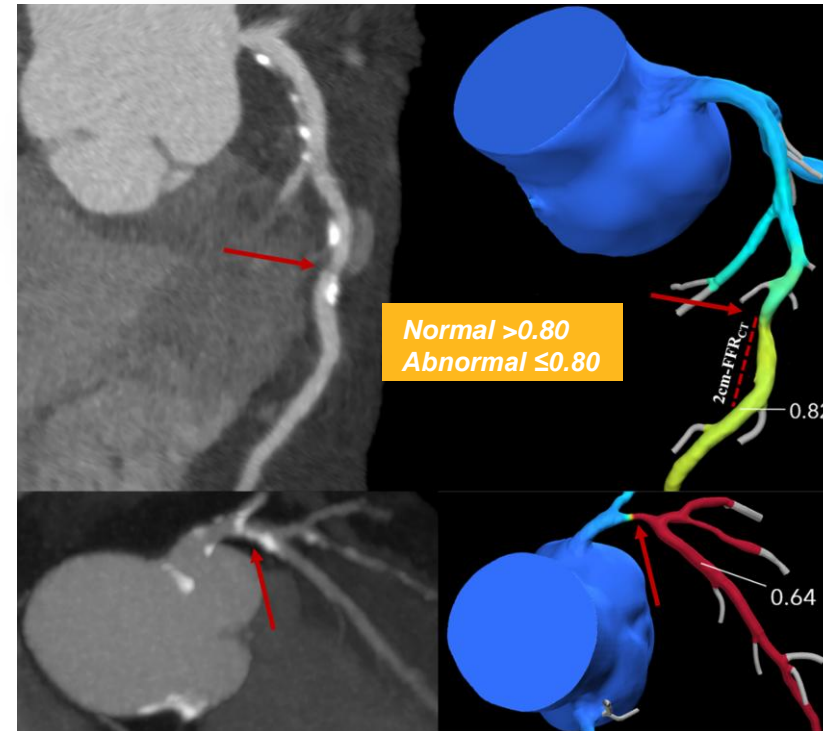
1. Lin, et al. Lancet 2022. DOI: 10.1016/S2589-7500(22)00022-X

2. Williams, et al. Circulation 2020. DOI: 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.119.044720

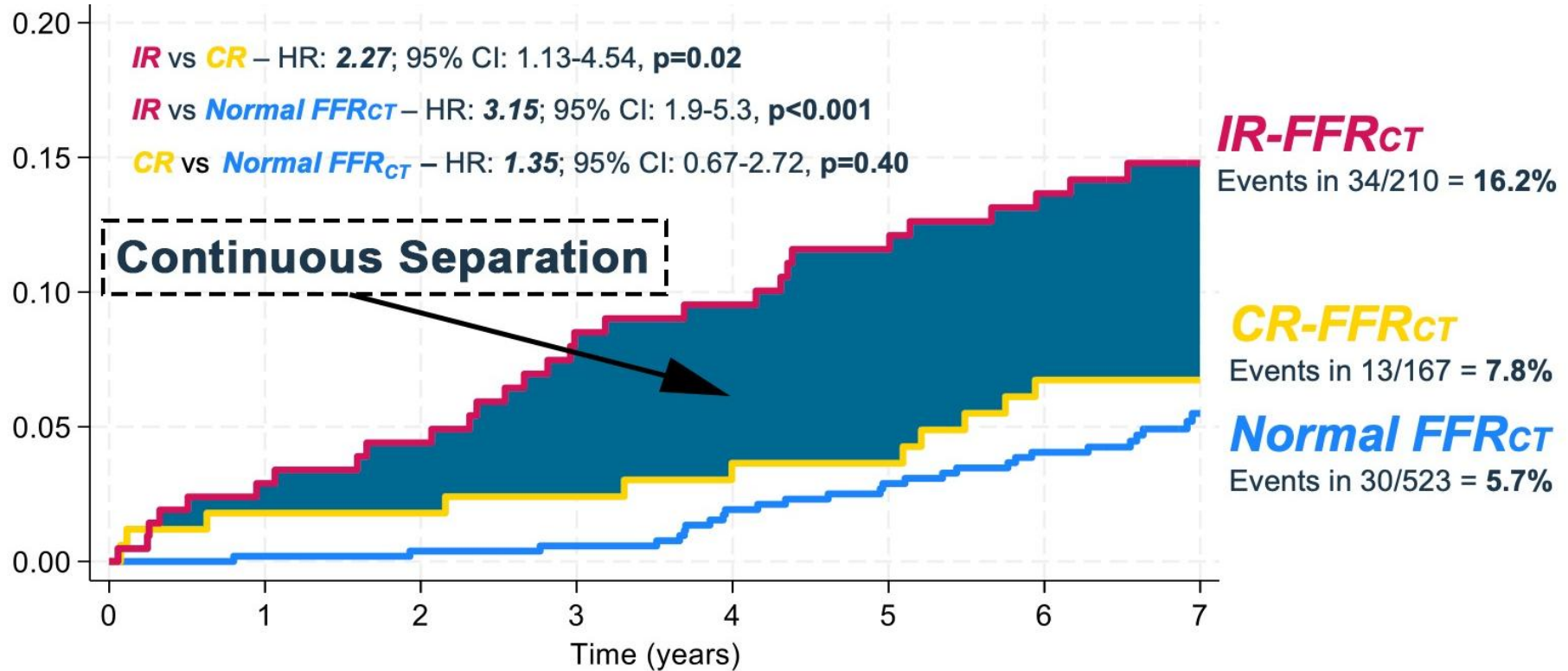
# Completeness of Revascularization by $\text{FFR}_{\text{CT}}$ and Long-term Prognosis in Stable Angina

## A 7-year Follow-up of the ADVANCE-DK Registry

- **900 patients undergoing CTA and  $\text{FFR}_{\text{CT}}$**   
All symptomatic with at least one coronary stenosis  $\geq 30\%$
- **Cardiovascular death or spontaneous MI**  
All endpoints adjudicated by independent event committee  
No periprocedural MI's included
- **Completeness of revascularization by  $\text{FFR}_{\text{CT}}$**   
**IR- $\text{FFR}_{\text{CT}}$**  :  $\geq 1$  vessels with abnormal  $\text{FFR}_{\text{CT}}$  not revascularized  
**CR- $\text{FFR}_{\text{CT}}$**  : All vessels with abnormal  $\text{FFR}_{\text{CT}}$  revascularized  
**Normal  $\text{FFR}_{\text{CT}}$**  : All vessels with normal  $\text{FFR}_{\text{CT}}$



# CVD or spontaneous MI

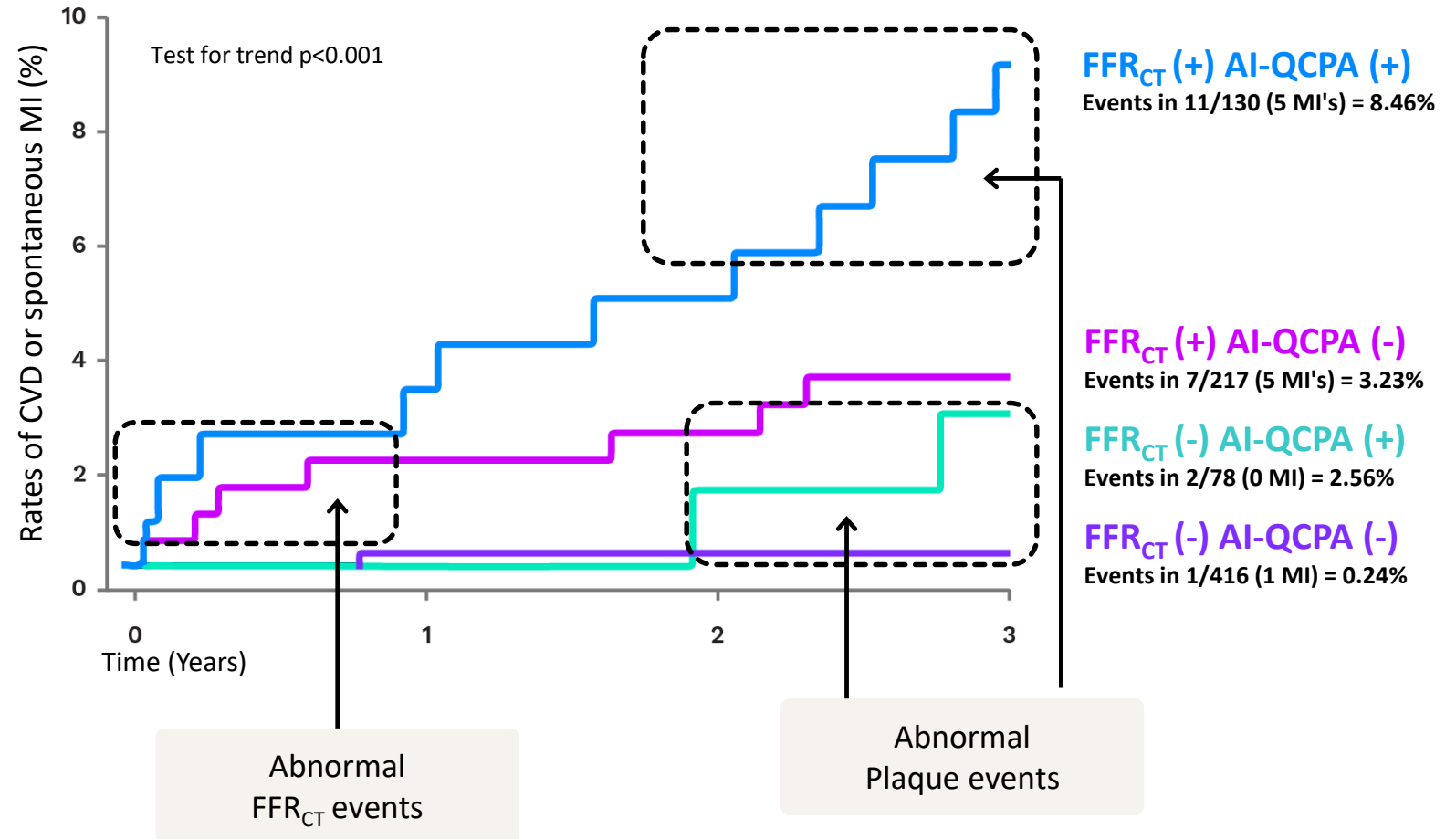


Number at risk	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Normal FFR <sub>CT</sub>	523	516	509	507	497	490	473	280
CR FFR <sub>CT</sub>	167	162	157	155	152	149	142	85
IR FFR <sub>CT</sub>	210	193	188	175	172	164	153	78

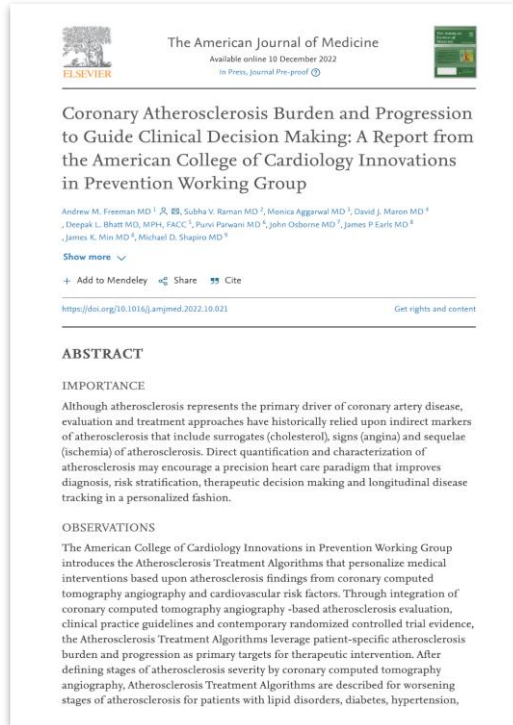
# Coronary Plaque + Physiology

## ADVANCE-DK Study

- Assessment of coronary plaque and physiology help to answer interrelated clinical questions regarding short- and long-term patient risk.
- The combined information from  $\text{FFR}_{\text{CT}}$  and Plaque Analysis further stratified the 3Y risk of CV events.



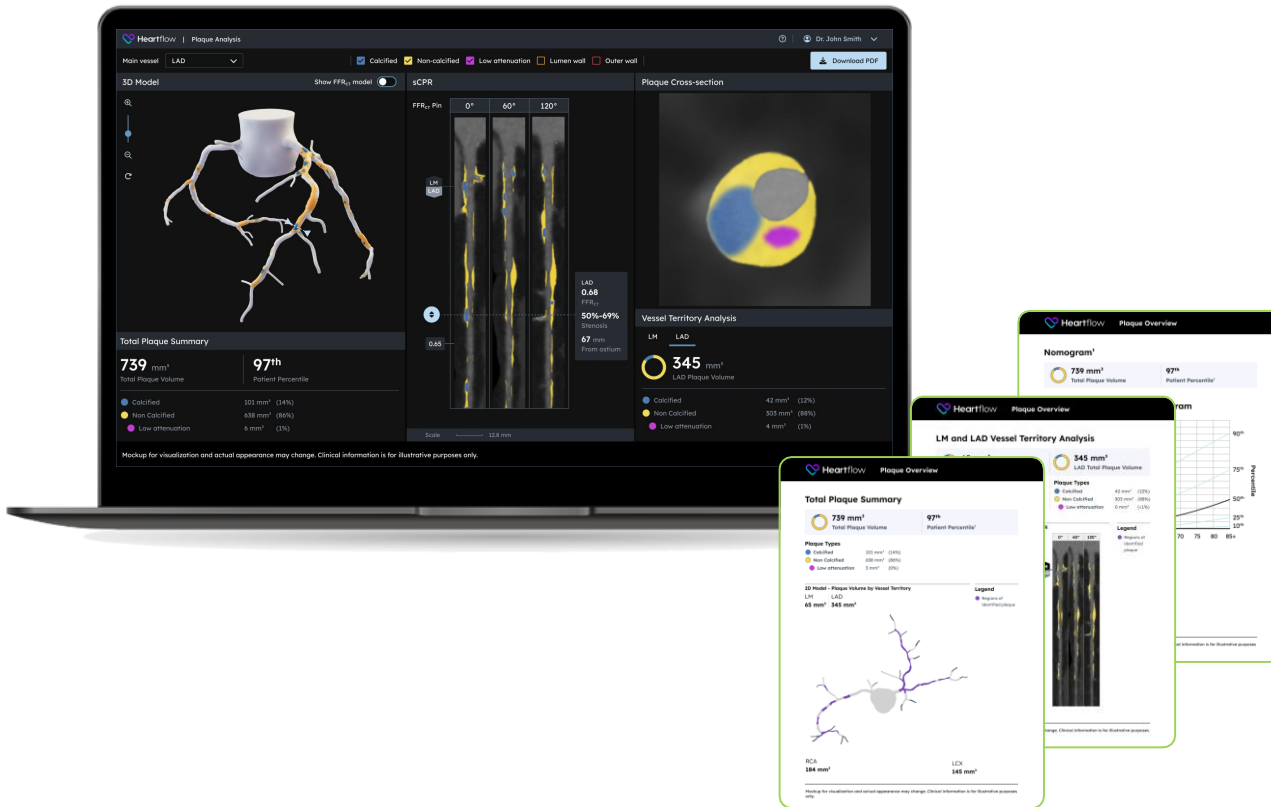
# TREAT: Therapy Based on Plaque Stage + RF



Stage	Stenoses	Action	Rescan (until stable):
<b>Stage 0: No Plaque</b>	<b>0</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>GDMT / Consider de-escalation</b></li> </ul>	<b>4 years</b>
<b>Stage 1: Mild</b>	<b>&lt;50%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Statin, Ezetimibe</b></li> </ul>	<b>3 years</b>
<b>Stage 2: Moderate</b>	<b>&lt;50%</b>	<b>Stage 1 Plus</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Aspirin, Rivaroxaban</b></li> <li><b>GLP1 if diabetic</b></li> </ul>	<b>2 years</b>
<b>Stage 3: Severe</b>	<b>&lt;50%</b>	<b>Stage 2 plus</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Consider PCSK9, Icosapent ethyl, Inclisirin, Bempedoic acid, Colchicine</b></li> <li><b>GLP1 and SGLT2 if diabetic</b></li> </ul>	<b>1 year</b>

# Introducing Heartflow Plaque Analysis

## AI-enabled plaque quantification and characterization

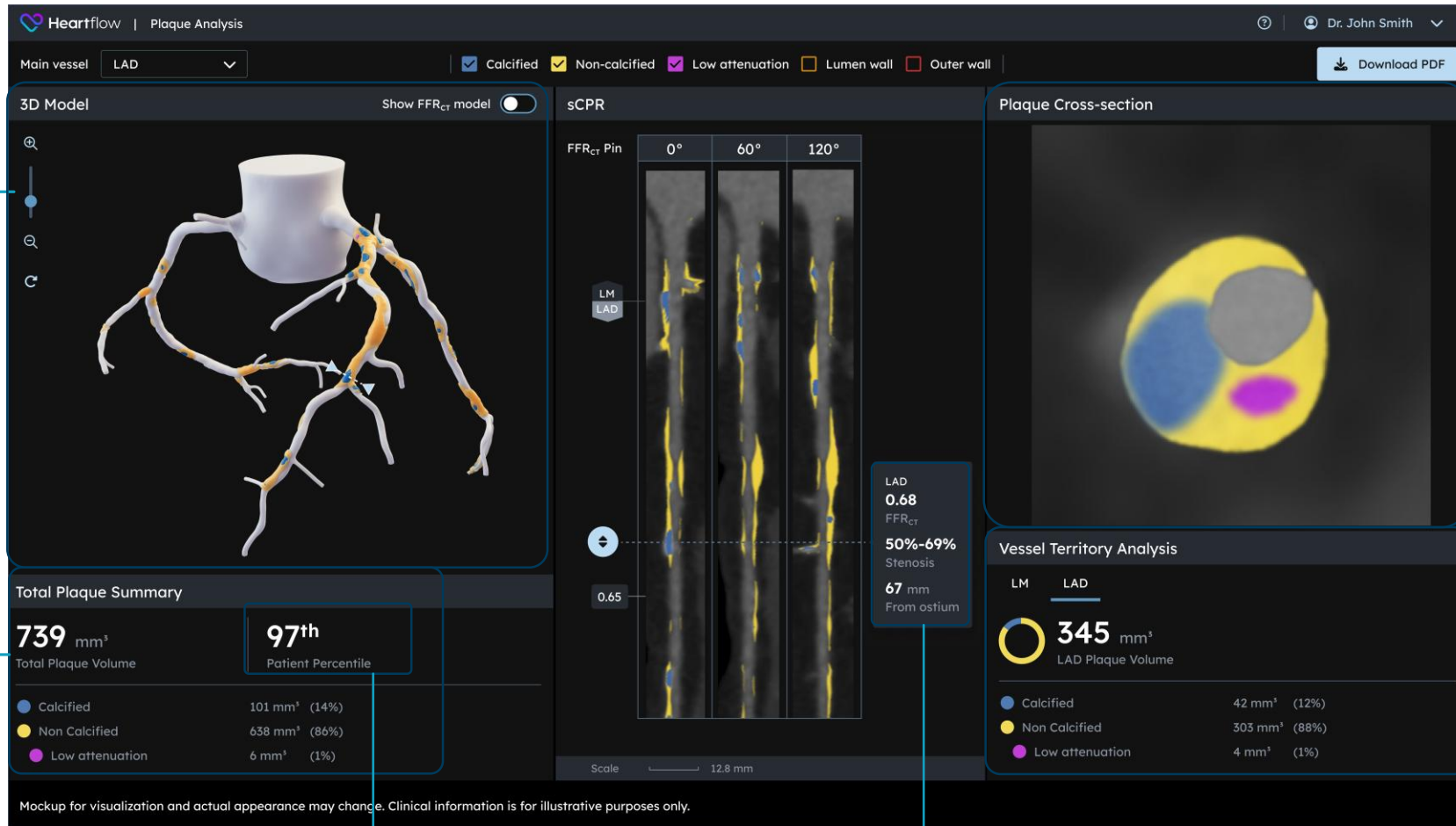


- **Comprehensive**  
Personalized 3D color-coded model of plaque type, burden, and distribution with plaque quantity to rapidly assess disease
- **Accurate**  
The only non-invasive plaque assessment with 95% agreement vs. the gold standard, IVUS<sup>1</sup>
- **Actionable**  
Demonstrated over 50% real-world change in management in the largest prospective registry of its kind<sup>2</sup>

Mockup for visualization and actual appearance may change. Clinical information is for illustrative purposes only.

1. Ihdaihid A, et al. Radiol Cardiothorac Imaging. 2024. doi: 10.1148/ryct.230312 and internal bridging study with ICC correlation between first generation and second generation Plaque Analysis algorithm
2. DECIDE Registry. Rinehart, et al., presented at SCCT 2025.

# Comprehensive: Heartflow Plaque Analysis



**1** Interactive 3D plaque model with plaque by type to quickly understand the distribution of disease

**2** Accurate plaque volume across calcified, non-calcified and low attenuation plaque<sup>1</sup>

**3** Age- and sex-stratified nomogram percentile based on the largest population of plaque quantification data<sup>2</sup>

**4** FFR<sub>CT</sub>, Stenosis, and sCPR with plaque type by color to identify high-risk disease faster<sup>3</sup>

**6** Co-registered cross-sectional reference and sCPR with plaque by type

**5** Detailed comprehensive plaque quantification by territory

1. Measured in mm<sup>3</sup> in vessels that are >1.8mm in diameter; Narula et al. *Dr Heart J* 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ehjci/ieae115>  
 2. Tzimas, et al., Presentation SCCT July 2025.  
 3. FFR<sub>CT</sub> values available when performed

Mockup for visualization and actual appearance may change. Clinical information is for illustrative purposes only.

# Heartflow Plaque Analysis

## LM

Calcified Plaque	38 (31%)
Non Calcified Plaque	85 (69%)
Low Attenuation Plaque	1 (<1%)
<b>Total Plaque(mm<sup>3</sup>)</b>	<b>123</b>

Quantitative plaque is provided on vessels > 1.8 mm.

## LAD

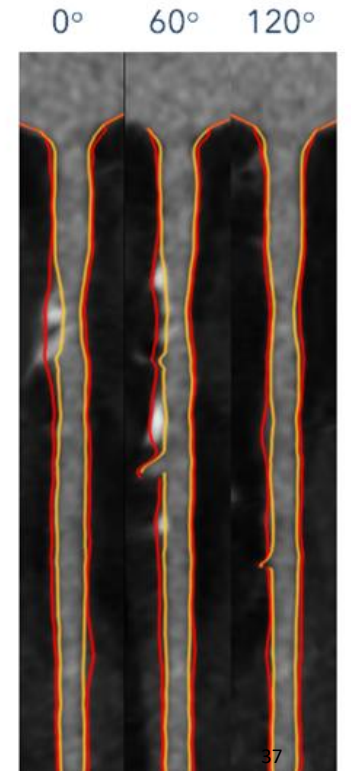
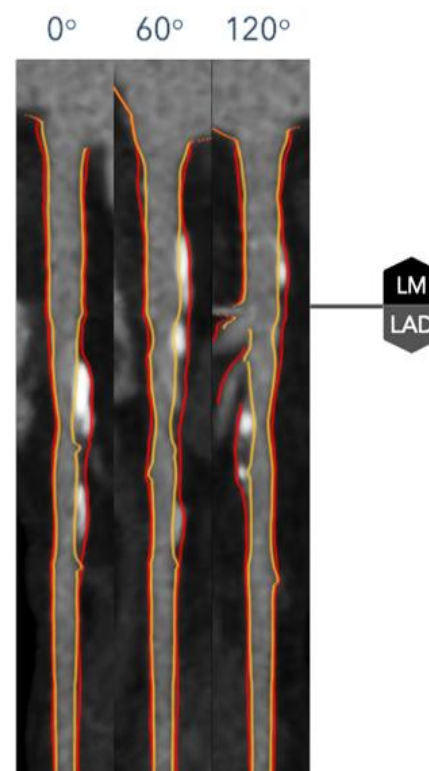
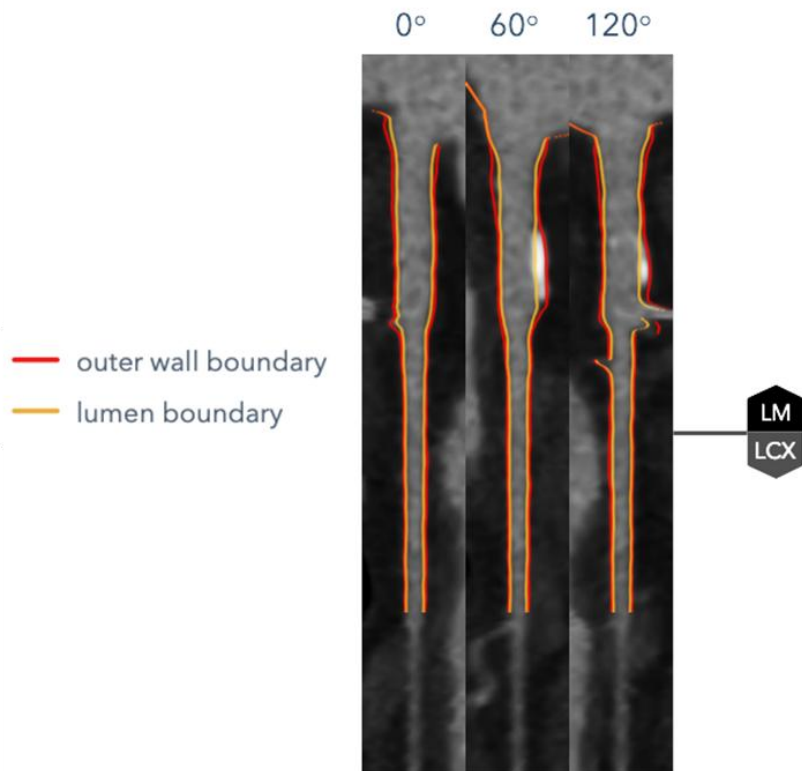
Calcified Plaque	83 (34%)
Non Calcified Plaque	162 (66%)
Low Attenuation Plaque	3 (1%)
<b>Total Plaque(mm<sup>3</sup>)</b>	<b>245</b>

Quantitative plaque is provided on vessels > 1.8 mm.

## RCA

Calcified Plaque	51 (26%)
Non Calcified Plaque	149 (75%)
Low Attenuation Plaque	2 (1%)
<b>Total Plaque(mm<sup>3</sup>)</b>	<b>200</b>

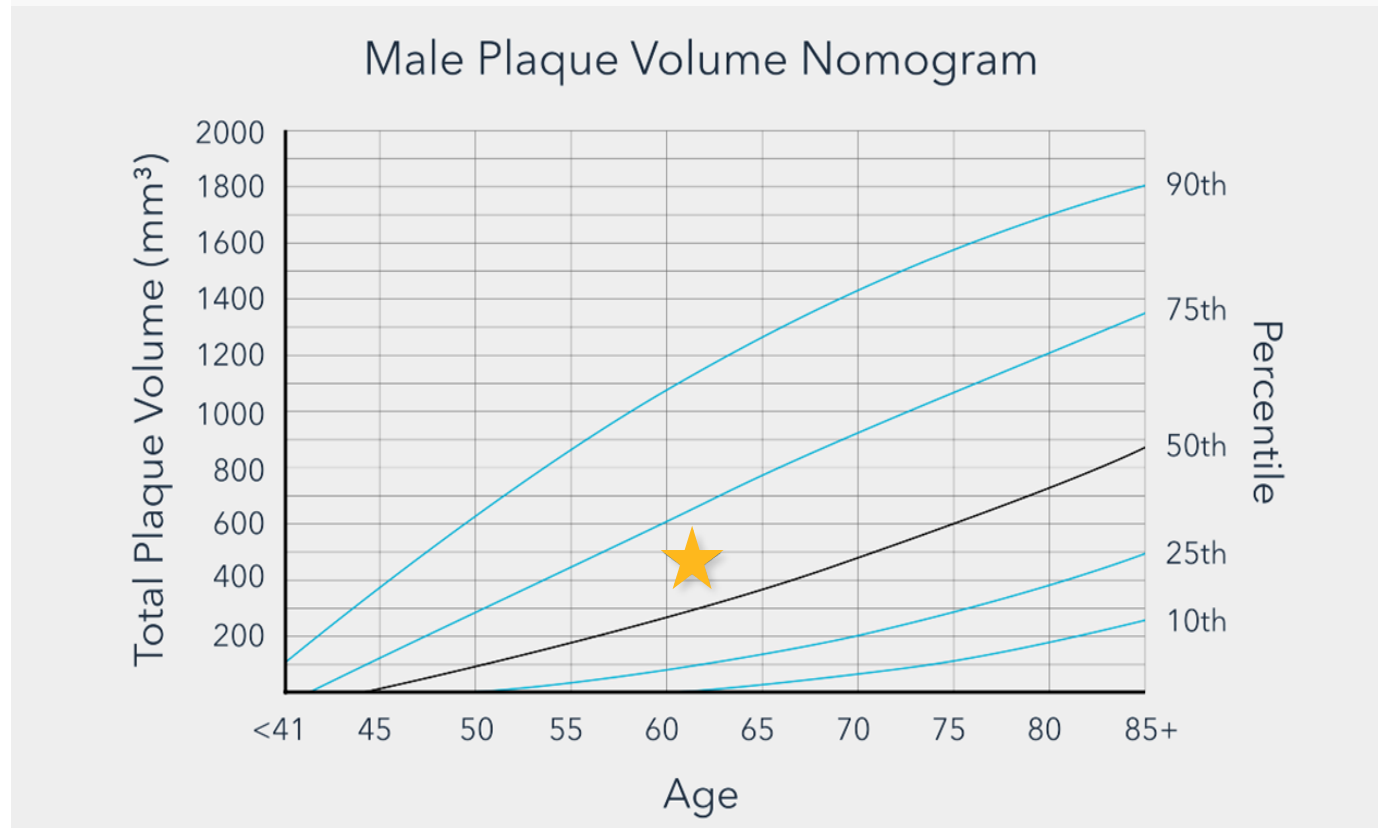
Quantitative plaque is provided on vessels > 1.8 mm.



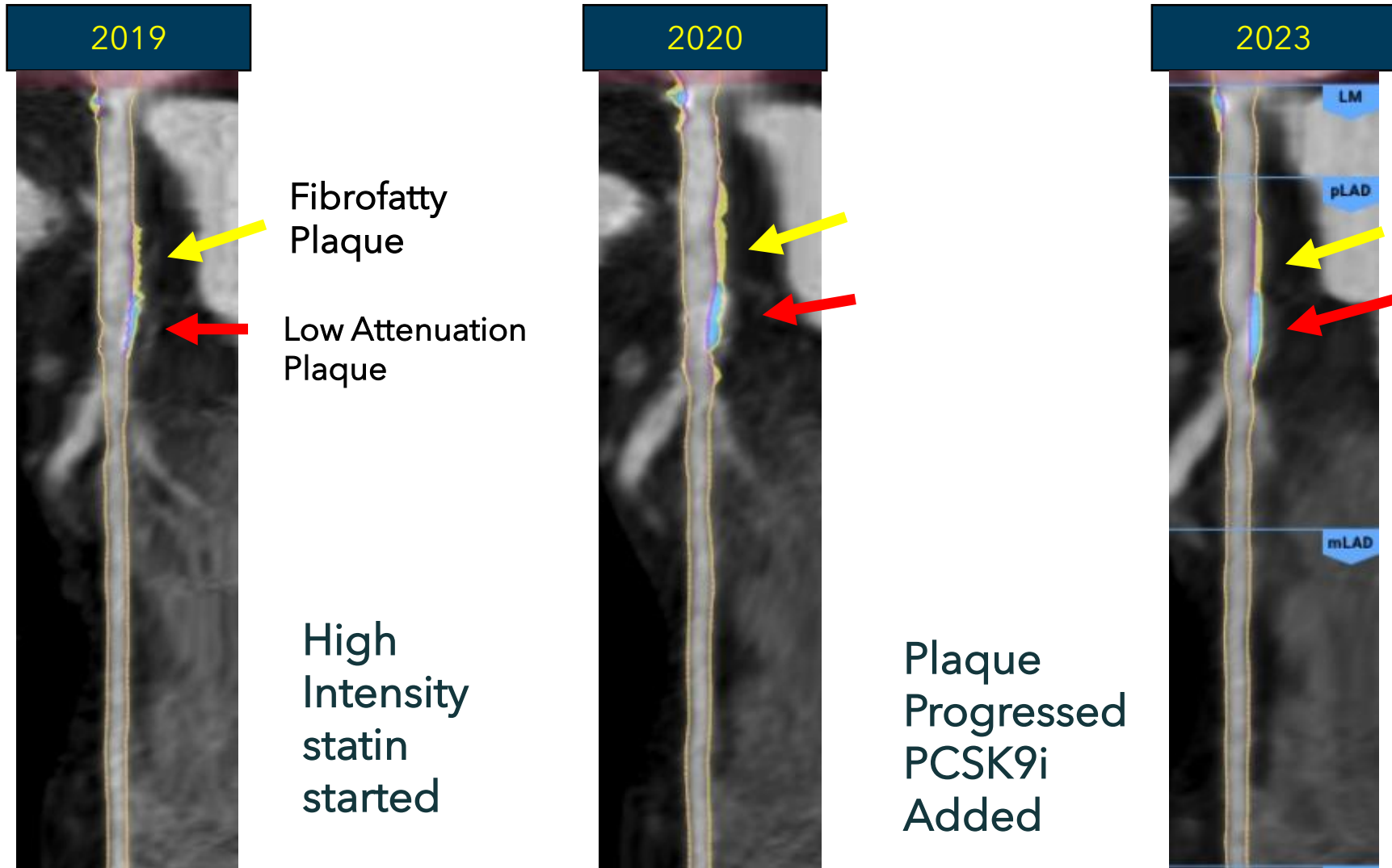
# Heartflow Plaque Analysis for Disease Characterization

Plaque Types	LM	LAD	LCX	RCA	Total
Calcified Plaque	38	83	0	51	172 (30%)
Non Calcified Plaque	85	162	0	149	396 (70%)
Low Attenuation Plaque	1	3	0	2	6 (1%)
<b>Total Plaque(mm<sup>3</sup>)</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>568</b>

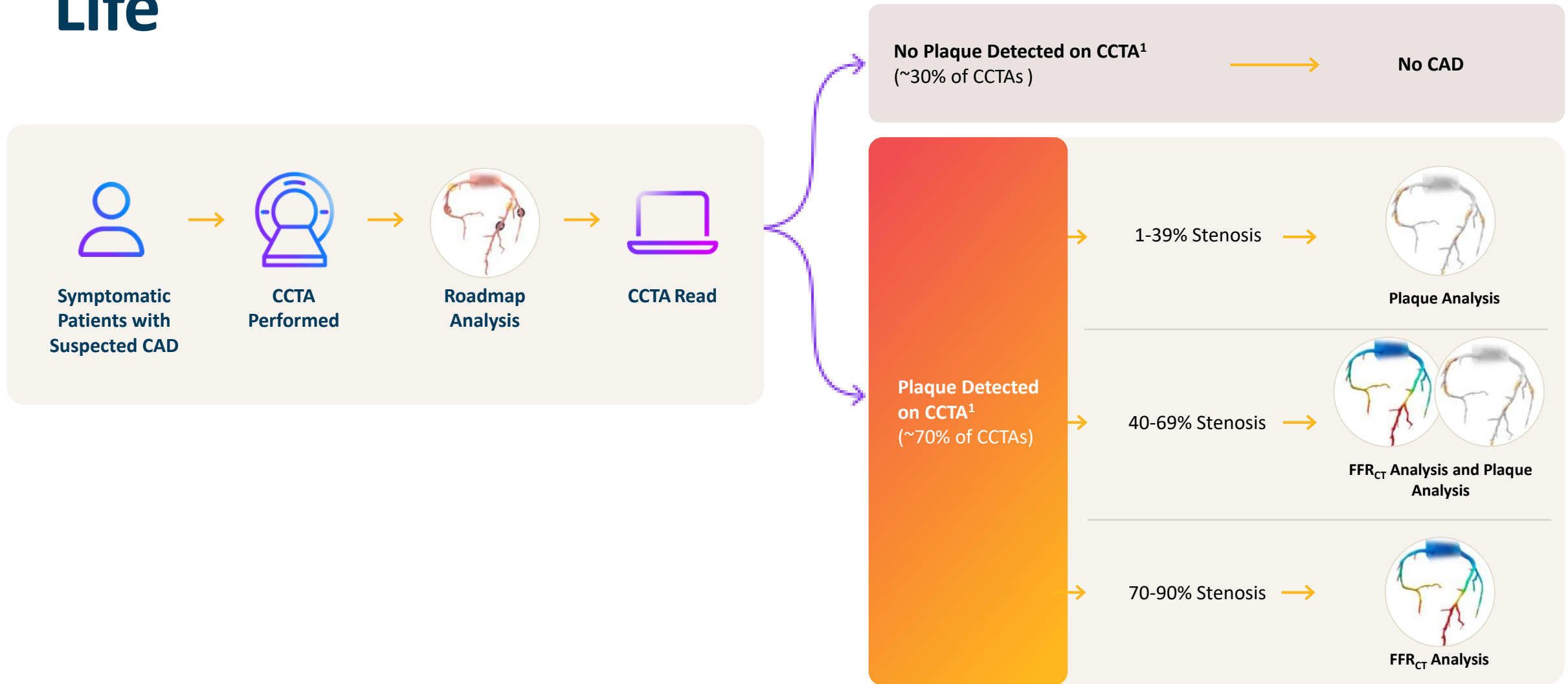
Quantitative plaque is provided on vessels > 1.8 mm.



# Serial CCTA Images to personalize Lipid Lowering



# Heartflow One: The Platform to Manage CAD for Life



<sup>1</sup> Bittner et al. JACC Cardiovasc Imaging 2020. (PROMISE) doi: 10.1016/j.jcmg.2019.09.012; Data on file.

Representative images for illustrative purposes only.

# Take Home Messages

- Clinicians need better tools to **identify which patients have disease** and need more aggressive treatment
- **Coronary CTA is a front-line pathway** that opens new options for disease identification
- CTA-driven AI-enabled techniques to **quantify, characterize, and inform disease severity are validated, rapid, and reimbursed.**
- These **accurate, patient-specific disease insights impact treatment decisions** which may improve long-term disease management

# Comprehensive Platform to Diagnose and Manage CAD



## Roadmap Analysis

Read CCTA more efficiently and consistently



STENOSIS AND CAD DETECTION

## Plaque Analysis

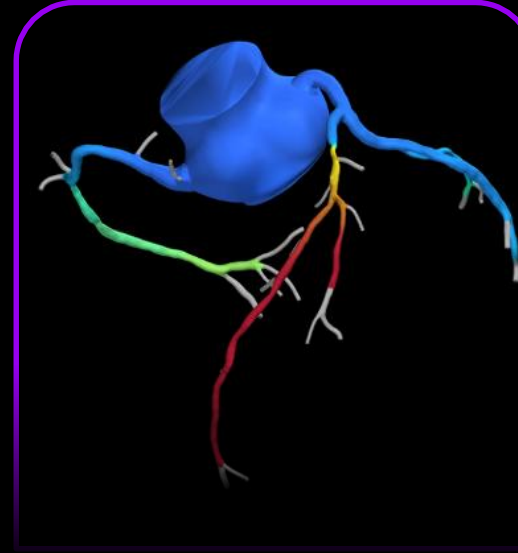
Quantify and characterize plaque



MEDICAL MANAGEMENT

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

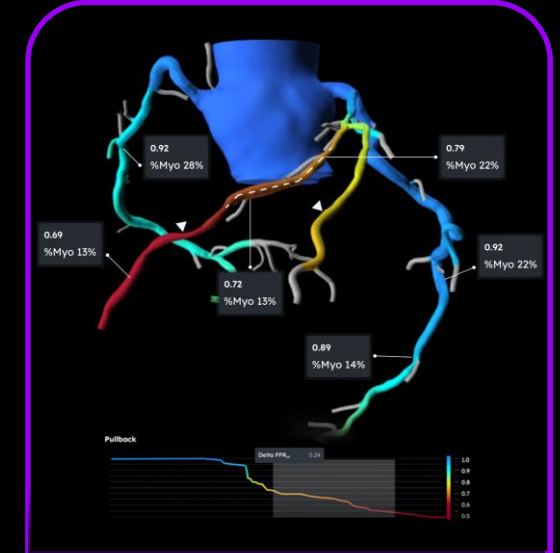
Assess impact to blood flow



INTERVENTIONAL DECISION

## PCI Navigator

Plan PCI



INTERVENTIONAL PLANNING

Heartflow Analysis consists of four main functions; FFR<sub>CT</sub>, Planner, Roadmap, and Plaque. All four functions are cleared for clinical use in 43 countries/regions, including the United States, United Kingdom and Europe. Only FFR<sub>CT</sub> and Planner functions are cleared for clinical use in Canada and Japan. Please see Heartflow Indications for Use and Instructions for Use for more information.



# PCI Navigator Will Deliver a Streamlined View of Essential Information for Cath Lab Decision-making

- **Procedural Complexity:** Lesion-specific  $FFR_{CT}$  values, stenosis, plaque location and composition, as well as percent myocardium fed by a vessel, to help understand lesion significance in context.
- **Stent Landing Zones:** Cross-sectional and longitudinal reconstructions providing lumen diameter and length measures alongside plaque morphology and stenosis severity to help precisely plan and guide procedures.
- **Planning for Optimal Outcomes:** Physiology changes along the lesion ( $\Delta FFR_{CT}$ ) to ensure the stenting procedure addresses the maximal flow gradient for optimal outcomes.

# New SCAI/SCCT Consensus Paper


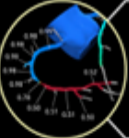


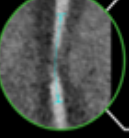





*“...increasing evidence and real-world experience suggest that CTA can be used for the preprocedural planning of PCI and can inform patient triage, shared decision making, case complexity, and resource use.”*

Central Illustration: Components of coronary computed tomography angiography-guided percutaneous coronary intervention

## Consensus Paper Authors

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 <p><b>MIP = Maximal Intensity Projection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coronary anatomy and disease complexity</li> <li>Dominance, anomalies, vessel course, and tortuosity</li> <li>Optimal angles for angiography and PCI</li> </ul>	 <p><b>Physiology derived from CCTA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Functional significance</li> <li>Delta <math>FFR_{CT}</math></li> <li><math>FFR_{CT}</math> pullback for CAD pattern assessment: focal vs. diffuse</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Axial images</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coronary ostium position and guide selection</li> <li>Normal RCA position ~11 o'clock and LCA 4 o'clock</li> <li>Aortic dimension for LCA guide catheter curve selection</li> </ul>	 <p><b>Virtual PCI</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><math>FFR_{CT}</math>-based virtual PCI to inform stent length</li> <li>Vessel course and tortuosity</li> <li>Optimal angles for angiography and PCI</li> </ul>
 <p><b>MPR = Multi-Planar Reformation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lesion location</li> <li>Plaque &amp; calcium distribution and composition</li> <li>Disease length and estimated stent length</li> </ul>	 <p><b>Myocardial mass</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vessel-specific myocardial mass at risk</li> <li>Side-branch protection, 2-stent techniques</li> <li>Risk for myocardial injury based on jeopardized mass</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Short-axis cross-sections</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lesion morphology, calcium arc</li> <li>Plaque burden</li> <li>Proximal and distal reference lumen diameters</li> </ul>	 <p><b>Live guidance from C-arm &amp; CT co-registration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Optimal angles for angiography and PCI</li> <li>Live interaction with CCTA data during case</li> <li>Stent length and positioning</li> </ul>



Consensus paper [here](#)

# Introducing PCI Navigator



**Patient Specific Interactive 3D Model**

**C-Arm Angles**

**Lesion Specific FFR<sub>CT</sub> Values**

**Lesion Specific % Myocardium At Risk**

**Plaque Composition**

**Diameter & Length**

**Proximal & Distal Margins**

**FFR<sub>CT</sub> Pullback Visualization With Delta FFR<sub>CT</sub>**

# THOUGHTS ON PREVENTION

- *...at the beginning a disease is easy to cure but difficult to diagnose; but as time passes, not having been recognized or treated at the outset, it becomes easy to diagnose but difficult to cure.*
- *Niccolò Machiavelli (1469-1527)*

“

All truth passes through three stages.  
First, it is ridiculed.  
Second, it is violently opposed.  
Third, it is accepted as being self-evident.

”

- Arthur Schopenhauer

**Thank you for listening!**

**Questions?**

