

Multislice CT may obviate invasive coronary angiography

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By: Reuters Health



NEW YORK (Reuters Health), Aug 30 - Multislice computed tomography (MSCT) coronary angiography (CAG) appears to be a safe and less invasive alternative to conventional coronary angiography in ruling out coronary artery disease, French researchers report in the August 13/27th issue of the *Archives of Internal Medicine*.

Dr. Martine Gilard and colleagues at University Hospital, Brest note that MSCT-CAG has recently been shown to have high sensitivity and negative predictive value in primary diagnosis of coronary artery disease. They also point out that conventional CAG may cause rare but serious complications.

To investigate further, the researchers initially studied more than 2,000 patients who had undergone MSCT angiography rather than conventional CAG for primary diagnosis of coronary heart disease.

In all, 141 patients had results considered as normal and met inclusion criteria, and the researchers followed this group for a mean of 14.7 months.

None of the patients died during this period, 3.5% went on to have conventional CAG and one patient (0.7%) experienced a myocardial infarction.

Based on pooled data, say the investigators, corresponding rates following normal findings for conventional CAG would amount to 0.4%, 4.3%, and 0.6%.

Dr. Gilard and colleagues conclude, "MSCT-CAG safely rules out suspected coronary artery disease and allows patients to be managed less invasively, by reducing the number in whom conventional CAG has to be performed."

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