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PROspective Multicenter Imaging Study for Evaluation of Chest Pain: Rationale and Design of the PROMISE Trial

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Abstract

Background—Suspected coronary artery disease (CAD) is one of the most common, potentially life threatening diagnostic problems clinicians encounter. However, no large outcome-based randomized trials have been performed to guide the selection of diagnostic strategies for these patients.

Methods—The PROMISE study is a prospective, randomized trial comparing the effectiveness of two initial diagnostic strategies in patients with symptoms suspicious for CAD. Patients are randomized to either: 1) functional testing (exercise electrocardiogram, stress nuclear imaging, or stress echocardiogram); or 2) anatomic testing with ≥ 64 slice multidetector coronary computed tomographic angiography. Tests are interpreted locally in real time by subspecialty certified physicians and all subsequent care decisions are made by the clinical care team. Sites are provided results of central core lab quality and completeness assessment. All subjects are followed for 1 year. The primary end-point is the time to occurrence of the composite of death, myocardial infarction, major procedural complications (stroke, major bleeding, anaphylaxis and renal failure) or hospitalization for unstable angina.

Results—Over 10,000 symptomatic subjects were randomized in 3.2 years at 193 US and Canadian cardiology, radiology, primary care, urgent care and anesthesiology sites.

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Conclusion—Multi-specialty community practice enrollment into a large pragmatic trial of diagnostic testing strategies is both feasible and efficient. PROMISE will compare the clinical effectiveness of an initial strategy of functional testing against an initial strategy of anatomic testing in symptomatic patients with suspected CAD. Quality of life, resource use, cost effectiveness and radiation exposure will be assessed.

Clinical trials.gov identifier NCT01174550

Keywords

Angina; Coronary computed tomography angiogram; Diagnostic strategy; Stress ECG; Stress echocardiography; Stress nuclear

Chest pain is a common reason for patients to seek medical attention, with ~4 million Americans receiving a new diagnosis of angina each year.(1),(2) American College of Cardiology (ACC)/American Heart Association (AHA) guidelines recognize the utility of many forms of noninvasive diagnostic testing, including exercise electrocardiogram (ExECG), stress echocardiogram (SE), stress nuclear imaging(MPI), and coronary computed tomographic angiography (CCTA), but do not provide strong recommendations as to which is preferred.(3) The most commonly performed functional tests rely upon detecting stress-induced myocardial ischemia(3), and are associated with high rates of false-positive and false-negative results in the detection of obstructive CAD. A recent meta-analysis of functional testing reported sensitivities of 0.84 (95% confidence interval:0.79–0.90) for SE and 0.86 (CI:0.81–0.91) for MPI; and specificities and areas under the curve of 0.80 (CI: 0.73–0.87) and 0.90 for SE and 0.82 (CI:0.75–0.89) and 0.91 for MPI.(4) However, these tests have limited prognostic discrimination, and an inability to detect nonobstructive CAD, which may also affect prognosis.(5–7) In addition, current testing patterns include low risk populations in whom current forms of testing may not provide optimal test performance.(8–10) The consequences of these limitations is seen in the high annual costs of noninvasive testing(11) and infrequent referral rate (roughly 10%) of those tested for additional investigations.(8) Despite this low referral rate, the likelihood of not finding obstructive CAD at diagnostic cardiac catheterization is quite high at over 60%,(10) leading to calls for noninvasive functional testing to better justify its current use as the optimal ‘gatekeeper’ for this invasive procedure.(12)

In contrast, CCTA permits direct visualization of the coronary arteries, allowing noninvasive detection of significant stenoses and exclusion of CAD with greater accuracy than functional tests. CCTA has been extensively validated against the gold standard of invasive coronary angiography.(13–15) A recent meta-analysis of 89 studies demonstrated a mean sensitivity of 0.97 (95% CI, 0.96–0.98) and mean specificity of 0.87 (0.85–0.90) for the detection of obstructive CAD.(16) CCTA also extends the spectrum of disease by detecting prognostically important nonobstructive lesions and coronary plaque,(17–19) but has been associated with greater downstream testing, interventions, and costs,(20) possibly mediated by its higher sensitivity for identifying obstructive CAD as compared to functional testing; lower specificity in patients with coronary artery calcification or impaired image quality; and by detecting anatomic CAD that may be unrelated to patient symptoms. Nevertheless, in a low prevalence population, the ability of CCTA to accurately and efficiently exclude

obstructive CAD may provide important clinical and economic advantages. Alternatively, invasive studies have shown improved outcomes in patients undergoing revascularization guided by physiologic (i.e. functional) information as compared to lesion stenosis alone (i.e. anatomic information).(21) Thus, the appropriate role of CCTA in stable chest pain patients remains undetermined.(22)

Objectives

The primary objective of the PROMISE trial is to compare the clinical outcomes of an initial diagnostic strategy of anatomic testing with CCTA to a usual care strategy of functional noninvasive testing in subjects with stable symptoms suspicious for CAD. Secondary objectives include comparison of the rate of finding no obstructive CAD on catheterization, health care costs, resource utilization, and patient reported quality of life (QOL). The principal safety objective is to compare radiation exposure by diagnostic testing assignment. Additional pre-specified exploratory analyses include assessment of testing quality and performance, including diagnostic accuracy, prognostic performance and concordance between the site and core lab interpretations. Finally, the PROMISE trial will define the feasibility and desirability of evaluating diagnostic testing strategies by performing a large, comparative effectiveness trial with clinical outcomes as the primary endpoint, an approach which has been championed but remains unproven.(23, 24)

Primary Hypothesis

The hypothesis of the PROspective Multicenter Imaging Study for Evaluation of Chest Pain (PROMISE) is that an initial anatomic testing strategy utilizing coronary computed tomographic angiography (CCTA) technology will reduce the composite primary endpoint (all-cause death, myocardial infarction (MI), major peri-procedural complications, or hospitalization for unstable angina) by 20% when compared with an initial functional testing strategy over an average follow-up of 2.5 years. In the absence of prior controlled trial experience, this hypothesis is supported by the following considerations: 1) CCTA is more sensitive in detecting obstructive CAD leading to fewer false negative findings and untreated CAD; 2) CCTA is more specific in excluding obstructive disease leading to fewer false positive findings and unnecessary invasive therapies; 3) CCTA has greater prognostic accuracy; 4) CCTA is able to detect nonobstructive disease and therefore can optimize 'primary' prevention; and 5) physician confidence in the exclusion of CAD by CCTA is greater such that unnecessary catheterizations or hospital admissions for suspected disease will be reduced.

Methods

Funding

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Overall Design

PROMISE is a multicenter, randomized, pragmatic trial comparing two state-of-the-art diagnostic strategies for use in patients with symptoms possibly due to obstructive CAD. (Figure 1) To establish an evidence-based standard-of-care PROMISE is constructed as an imaging effectiveness trial, as both efficacy (i.e., optimal performance at expert sites) and diagnostic utility or accuracy approaches would fail to capture the actual clinical performance of diagnostic strategies in the community where the vast majority of these tests are performed. Key features of a pragmatic design(25) are incorporated, including 1) the clinically relevant alternatives of usual clinical testing and usual clinical care; 2) a diverse study population; 3) heterogeneous practice settings; and 4) use of a broad range of health outcomes rather than focusing solely on cost. As is the case with many pragmatic trials, there is no blinding; this would be logistically impossible given the study design.

Study population

Subjects considered for enrollment into PROMISE were outpatients without known CAD who were symptomatic, and whose physician had determined that the subject required non-urgent, noninvasive cardiovascular testing to further evaluate suspected CAD. This population was purposefully and carefully chosen to be directly reflective of the population in which elective noninvasive cardiac diagnostic testing and cardiac catheterizations are currently being used.(8, 10) **Inclusion Criteria** were designed to capture at risk individuals with stable chest pain or chest pain equivalent syndromes, who had no history of coronary artery disease or recent evaluations for CAD. (Table 1). **Exclusion Criteria** were designed to exclude any individual with unstable hemodynamics or requiring urgent evaluation for suspected acute coronary syndrome (ACS), with a history of coronary artery disease, recent evaluations for CAD, or who would be unable to be safely randomized to either arm.

Site selection, qualification and imaging quality control

To optimize the generalizability of the study results and reflect current patterns of care, community-based practices were aggressively recruited for participation in the trial, including primary care, radiology, cardiology and hospital based practices. Before beginning enrollment, potential sites were certified in each testing modality based on reader qualification, lab accreditation and successful transfer of 2 complete data sets with adequate image quality and completeness for each modality. For both CCTA and functional test readers, ACC COCATS (Core Cardiology Training Symposium) Level 2 training (26) or equivalent was required (for CCTA: Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography Level 2 or the Certification Board of Computed Cardiovascular Tomography; for nuclear, Certification Board of Nuclear Cardiology or Board Certification in nuclear medicine or radiology). As an additional eligibility criterion, CCTA level 2 readers were required to participate in an online course including evaluation of 25 cases of CCTA cases with comparison to invasive coronary angiography.

Randomization

Eligible subjects providing written informed consent were randomly assigned in a ratio of 1:1 to either the anatomic or functional diagnostic testing arm of the trial. A computer-

generated permuted block randomization scheme with stratification by clinical site was used. Before randomization, the functional test that would be used if the subject were randomized to this arm was used as another stratification factor in the randomization scheme to facilitate comparisons of anatomic vs. functional testing according to the type of functional test.

Diagnostic Testing Intervention

In the functional testing arm, the preselected functional test was performed as the initial test: (MPI, stress echo, or ExECG). In the anatomic testing arm, a contrast-enhanced CCTA was performed as the initial test. Sites used standard equipment for functional testing as defined in current practice guidelines(27, 28) and 64-slice multidetector CCTA.(3) While sample protocols were provided for all modalities, sites were allowed to use their own acquisition protocols as long as they fell within national standard-of-care guidelines.(27–30) All diagnostic tests were interpreted by qualified diagnosticians at the sites in real time according to current clinical guidelines to ensure timely availability of results for patient management.

During the study, technical quality was assessed on all studies and 10% of studies were over-read centrally. Radiation exposure was monitored throughout the trial with a prespecified radiation safety plan in place. Sites not meeting set standards for radiation exposure underwent protocol review and retraining. No site was recommended for discontinuation of enrollment based on excessive radiation exposure.

Subsequent Care

The results of all tests were provided to the care team in the usual manner for that testing laboratory and the local physician continued to direct care of the subject, making all subsequent clinical decisions (e.g., need for further evaluation or admission) based upon his or her cumulative clinical assessment of the subject, including noninvasive test findings. Optimal medical therapy was encouraged and patient and provider educational materials were provided, including test-information sheets specific to each modality outlining diagnostic and prognostic implications of various test results.

Follow-up visits

Subjects had either a telephone call or clinic visit at 60 (+/- 14) days by the enrolling site for outcome evaluation, collection of test results and images and recording of any test complications. After that, subjects were contacted centrally by trained interviewers at 6 months post-randomization and at 6-month intervals for subsequent follow-up assessments until death, withdrawal, or the end of the trial. All subjects are followed for a minimum of one year. Quality of Life assessments were performed in the first 6000 subjects at baseline, and 6, 12 and 24 months.

Effectiveness and Safety Determinations

Endpoints were chosen to reflect clinical outcomes of importance to patients rather than intermediate outcomes like test utility or costs, which may change substantially depending on reimbursement policies. An independent clinical events adjudication committee (CEC)

reviewed all primary endpoint events and the secondary endpoints which included catheterization in a blinded fashion based on standard, prospectively determined definitions. If the invasive cardiac catheterization report was inconclusive, catheterization films were reviewed for a visual assessment of CAD. The decisions of the CEC will be used to perform the final statistical analyses.

The **Primary Endpoint** is the time to first event using the composite of the following major cardiovascular events:

All-cause mortality was used rather than cardiac mortality to eliminate the need for possibly difficult adjudication of causes of death, especially given the relatively low mortality expected.

Myocardial infarction (MI) is defined as an abnormal cardiac biomarker level above the institutional upper limit of normal (either troponin or CK-MB), and either ischemic discomfort lasting at least 10 minutes or ECG changes indicative of ischemia or infarction or new abnormal Q waves consistent with infarction. Additionally peri-procedural infarctions are defined as greater than three times the upper limit of normal for serum CK-MB following PCI and greater than five times the upper limit of normal following CABG.

Major complications from cardiovascular procedures and diagnostic testing which occur within 72 hours, including:

Stroke is defined as an acute focal neurological deficit of sudden onset, not reversible within 24 hours, or that resolves in <24 hours with clear evidence of a new stroke on cerebral imaging.

Bleeding is defined as major based on one or more of the following: Transfusion of 2 units heterologous packed red blood cells or whole blood, decrease in hemoglobin level by 2.0 g/l, need for re-operation or invasive intervention (*e.g.* Evacuation of wound hematoma), or bleeding at a critical anatomic site (intracranial, intraspinal, intraocular, retroperitoneal, intra-articular, pericardial, or intramuscular with compartment syndrome)

Renal failure is defined as new requirement for renal replacement therapy or dialysis.

Anaphylaxis is defined as a severe contrast reaction requiring emergency respiratory and/or circulatory support.

Unstable angina hospitalization defined as an event in which the final diagnosis is myocardial ischemia and either of the following criteria are present: ischemic discomfort or equivalent symptoms requiring hospitalization within 48 hours of symptoms and lasting at least 10 minutes at rest, or ischemic discomfort or equivalent symptoms occurring in an accelerated pattern within 48 hours of hospitalization. In addition at least one of the following must be present: dynamic ST depression, ischemia on stress testing or significant epicardial coronary artery stenosis

The **Secondary Endpoints** are

- Death or MI or unstable angina hospitalization

- Death or MI
- Major complications from cardiovascular procedures and testing (stroke, major bleeding, anaphylaxis, and renal failure requiring dialysis)
- Composite endpoint consisting of the primary endpoint or invasive catheterization without obstructive CAD (defined as all stenoses less than 50% in all major epicardial vessels including side branches ≥ 2 mm in diameter, on the first cath performed ≤ 60 days after randomization.)
- Invasive catheterization without obstructive CAD defined as the site reported rate of all major epicardial vessels having less than 50% stenosis on the first cardiac catheterization procedure occurring within 60 days from randomization. Patients with structural causes for ischemia such as anomalous coronary arteries are excluded.
- Medical costs, resource use, and incremental cost effectiveness
- Health-related quality of life (QOL)

The **Secondary Safety Endpoint** is estimated cumulative radiation exposure as measured by cumulative radiation exposure in milliSieverts in each arm for tests performed for the diagnostic work-up during the 60 days using administered dose on CCTA, converted contrast agent dose for nuclear and administered radiation dose (kerma air product or dose length product) or fluoroscopy time for angiography. In addition, cumulative radiation exposure over the entire trial will be estimated by extrapolating the original data collection (average dose per test for each site) for exposures during follow-up.

Quality of Life assessments include the Seattle Angina Questionnaire (SAQ), the Duke Activity Status Index (DASI), the Rose Dyspnea Scale, the Medical Outcomes Study Short Form (SF-12), the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ), the EuroQoL-5D (EQ-5D), and the Stanford Presenteeism Scale.

Blood based Biomarkers and Image Repositories were created as enduring resources. Blood samples from consenting subjects were banked for clinical and advanced molecular biomarkers (DNA, RNA, metabolomics, proteomics). The Image Repository includes all CCTA, nuclear, echocardiographic and angiographic images and all stress ECGs.

Statistical methods

Sample size and power calculations

Based on the distribution of coronary disease expected in the study population (approximately 15% obstructive disease, 40% non-obstructive disease, and 45% normal coronary arteries), and based on national claims data and published information from other databases, the event rate at 2.5 years (the approximate average length of follow-up) for the primary composite endpoint in subjects randomized to the functional testing strategy was projected to be approximately 9%. (4, 8, 13–15, 18)

The sample size of 10,000 patients was chosen to achieve (a) 90% power for detecting a 20% reduction in the primary endpoint if the 2.5-year event rate in the functional testing arm is 8% or higher, (b) 80% power if the event rate is as low as 6%, (c) adequate power for detecting a smaller reduction (16–17%) if the event rate in the functional testing arm is 8–9% or higher, and (d) acceptable power for selected secondary endpoints. This number also provides 90% power for testing non-inferiority with a pre-specified margin of 1.10 (expressed as a hazard ratio of CCTA vs. functional testing) assuming that anatomic testing is only better than functional testing by 10%. This study size allows for a 3% loss to follow-up. Under these various assumptions, this sample size will provide robust statistical power for assessing clinically relevant outcome differences between the two testing strategies.

Primary statistical analysis

All major treatment comparisons between the randomized groups will be performed according to the principle of “intention-to-treat”; that is, subjects will be analyzed (and endpoints attributed) according to the diagnostic testing strategy to which subjects were randomized, regardless of actual initial test or subsequent additional testing or post-randomization treatment and medical care. Statistical comparisons will be performed using 2-sided significance tests. The primary statistical comparison will be a “time-to event” analysis using the Cox proportional hazards model and Kaplan-Meier survival estimates. To appropriately account for heterogeneity among the subjects, the Cox model will be adjusted for a pre-specified set of prognostically important baseline covariates including age, sex, CAD risk equivalent (diabetes, peripheral or cerebrovascular disease), and chest pain characteristics. The level of significance for the assessment of the primary endpoint will be $\alpha=0.05$. If the study does not meet the superiority significance criterion, noninferiority of CCTA will be tested and established if the upper 95% CI for the estimated hazard ratio falls below 1.10.

Diagnostic testing analyses

Diagnostic test quality assurance analyses will include technical quality, which will be compared among the different testing modalities to characterize, describe, and assess any differences in overall quality among the various testing modalities, and the quality of test interpretations using both unweighted and weighted Kappa statistics. Pre-specified analyses of diagnostic testing accuracy include: diagnostic accuracy, prognostic performance and concordance between the site and core lab interpretations. Diagnostic accuracy will be assessed using conventional measures (sensitivity, specificity, and receiver operating characteristic [ROC] curves) in subjects undergoing cardiac catheterization. Corrected values of sensitivity, specificity, and the ROC curve will be estimated after adjusting for verification bias.(31, 32)

QOL analysis

For each of the QOL measures examined in this study, data analysis will proceed in several stages. Initially, we will provide simple descriptive and comparative analyses by intention-to-treat. A nonparametric bootstrap will be used to estimate treatment differences with 95% confidence intervals (CI) and p-values. Since there is currently no consensus in the statistical literature about the best way to deal with the multiple comparisons problem arising from

testing each individual scale at each time point separately, we propose two complementary approaches. First, we have pre-specified the angina frequency, and angina QOL scales from the SAQ and functional status using the Duke Activity Status Index as the primary QOL comparisons of interest and assign all other comparisons to a secondary (descriptive) status. Second, we will fit a mixed effect longitudinal proportional odds model(33) to model the time profile (fixed effect) using a restricted cubic spline function. Using the fitted model, we can estimate and compare QOL overall (global hypothesis of no difference anywhere) and the QOL average over follow-up (difference in the areas under the two QOL treatment curves), as well as make comparisons at selected points of interest, such as at end of study or at 6 months or 1 year. Missing data will be addressed using multiple imputation (missing at random assumption) and sensitivity analyses (cannot assume missing at random), as needed. No formal adjustment of p values for multiple comparisons will be made.

Economic analysis will consist of an empirical intention-to-treat cost comparison and cost-effectiveness analysis. Confidence limits around the observed cost differences will be constructed using bootstrap methods. The cost-effectiveness analyses will estimate the incremental cost required to add an extra life year in the anatomic vs functional testing arm. In secondary analyses, we will incorporate utility weights to estimate the incremental cost per quality-adjusted life year gained with the CCTA anatomic strategy, relative to the functional testing strategy. These analyses will be conducted from a societal perspective and will use a lifetime time horizon so that the estimated incremental cost-effectiveness and cost-utility ratios can be compared with societal benchmarks.

Organization, Funding and Human Studies (Appendix 1)

PROMISE is funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI). It is conducted under the supervision of an executive committee, which developed the protocol and oversees trial execution, the independent database, and analysis of the results and publication. NHLBI appointed an independent data and safety monitoring board to monitor patient safety and provide recommendations regarding terminating, continuing, or modifying the study protocol if concerns arise. A steering committee of investigators provides operational expertise and advises the executive committee. Finally, operational oversight of the study is performed through the Duke Clinical Research Institute, with Massachusetts General Hospital serving as the imaging and testing coordinating center. The Duke, Partners Healthcare and Tufts Institutional Review Boards approved the central activities; local or central IRBs approved the study at each site. Each patient was provided with oral and written information and signed a declaration of informed consent.

Results

PROMISE recently completed enrollment of the pre-specified 10,000 subjects in 3.2 years, ahead of the enrollment plan. Enrolling sites included 193 US and Canadian centers representing cardiology, radiology, primary care, urgent care and anesthesiology expertise.

Discussion

The PROMISE trial enrolled a study cohort broadly reflective of the current population undergoing evaluation for stable symptoms suspicious for coronary artery disease which should provide a highly representative reflection of the current state of clinical diagnostic testing in North America, of subsequent care including additional testing, medical therapy and possible revascularization as well as cardiovascular events, costs of care, quality of life and radiation safety. Enrollment was completed expeditiously, ahead of the projected timeline, indicating that a site selection strategy involving multi-specialty community practices is both feasible and efficient.

Current ACC/AHA clinical practice guidelines on stable ischemic heart disease(3) provide two Class I diagnostic recommendations for patients able to exercise: one for stress ECG (Level of Evidence A), and the other for exercise nuclear scan or exercise echocardiography in patients with an uninterpretable rest ECG (Level of Evidence B). CCTA is a Class IIb recommendation (Level of Evidence B). For patients unable to exercise, the guidelines provide a Class I recommendation for pharmacological stress with MPI or echocardiography (Level of Evidence B) and a Class IIb recommendation for CCTA (Level of Evidence C). These recommendations reflect the multitude of testing options available, the lack of high quality data and the paucity of guidance provided for choosing among available options in individual patients. Each of these factors contributes importantly to the rationale for the PROMISE study.

Recent investigations of populations undergoing functional testing for suspected CAD indicate a lower prevalence of CAD than in prior decades, as reflected in a much lower positivity rate(9) and few subsequent procedures or events.(8) These factors combine to result in high rates of angiographic findings of no obstructive coronary artery disease.(10, 34) Standards for test performance which were developed based on data from the 1990's(6) may substantially underestimate the false positive rate associated with contemporary referral patterns, favoring alternative modes of testing with higher sensitivity and specificity, such as CCTA.

PROMISE is the first large randomized trial of any form of noninvasive testing in cardiovascular disease, and among the first to use clinical events as its primary endpoint. As such PROMISE will test the outcomes research paradigm for cardiovascular imaging, a significant methodological question with broad policy implications.(23) The PROMISE trial is also breaking new ground in its pragmatic, clinical effectiveness design. By largely allowing sites to perform usual testing protocols and interpretation as well as site-directed, rather than protocol mandated, medical care following test results, PROMISE will yield much valuable information about current real world care in North America. However, it will not provide information regarding the efficacy of testing in expert hands or clinical outcomes following rigorously controlled subsequent care. As a trial of a diagnostic strategy, this study will address questions related to the optimal evaluation of symptomatic patients, rather than rigorously evaluating a diagnostic or therapeutic intervention. The clear requirement for site qualification prior to enrollment and maintenance of reasonable quality of test performance should ensure quality throughout the study. Site care teams are also

expected to follow current guidelines for primary and secondary prevention during follow up.

Summary and Significance

PROMISE is the first large randomized trial comparing functional and anatomic noninvasive diagnostic strategies for the initial assessment of stable symptoms suspicious for possible CAD, with the primary endpoint being superior health outcomes. It is expected to yield definitive and unique evidence regarding the benefits and risks of these alternative approaches.

Abbreviations

CAD	coronary artery disease
CCTA	coronary computed tomography angiogram
PROMISE	<u>P</u> ROspective <u>M</u> ulticenter <u>I</u> maging <u>S</u> tudy for <u>E</u> valuation of Chest Pain
QOL	quality of life

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Appendix 1. Trial Organization

Executive Committee

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Stephan Achenbach, MD (overreads)

Erin Corsini

Brian B. Ghoshhajra, MD MBA (sites, radiation)

Quynh Truong MD MPH (online reader certification)

Nuclear imaging: James E. Udelson, MD

Stress echocardiography; Michael H. Picard, MD

Stress ECG: Mitchell W. Krucoff, MD

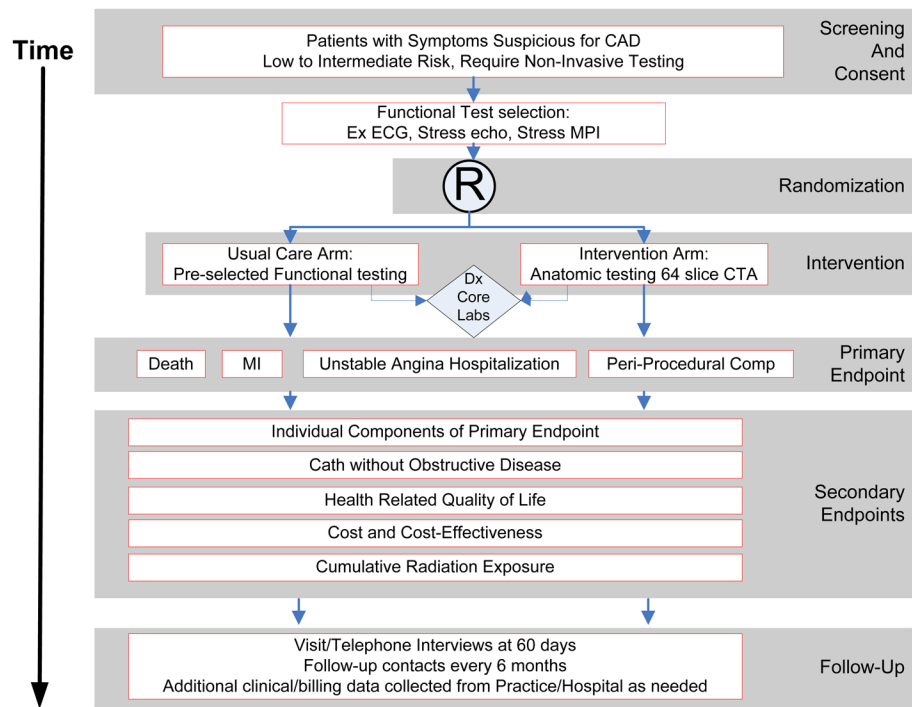


Figure 1. Overall Study Design

CAD = Coronary artery disease; Ex ECG = Exercise ECG; Stress echo = Stress echocardiography; MPI= Myocardial perfusion imaging; Dx = Diagnostic.

Table 1

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New or worsening chest-pain syndrome or equivalent symptoms suspicious for clinically significant CAD • No prior cardiac evaluation for this episode of symptoms • Planned noninvasive testing for diagnosis • Men age greater than or equal to 55 years and women age greater than or equal to 65 years • If age in men 45–54 years or women 50–64 years, then must have increased probability of CAD due to 1 or more of the following risk factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Diabetes mellitus requiring medical treatment – Peripheral arterial disease (PAD), defined as documented peripheral arterial stenosis greater than or equal to 50%, treated medically or invasively – Cerebrovascular disease (stroke), defined as documented carotid stenosis greater than or equal to 50%, treated medically or invasively – Ongoing tobacco use – Hypertension – Abnormal ankle-brachial index (ABI), defined as less than 0.9 – Dyslipidemia • Serum creatinine less than or equal to 1.5 mg/dL within the past 90 days • Negative urine/serum pregnancy test for female subjects of childbearing potential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnosed or suspected ACS requiring hospitalization or urgent or emergent testing; elevated troponin or creatine kinase-myocardial band (CK-MB); outpatients who have completed a rule-out ACS protocol are eligible provided they have two sets of negative biomarkers and a nondiagnostic or normal ECG. • Hemodynamically or clinically unstable condition (systolic blood pressure [BP] less than 90 mm Hg, severe atrial or ventricular arrhythmias, or persistent resting chest pain felt to be ischemic despite adequate therapy) • Known CAD with prior clinical history of MI, PCI, coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) or any angiographic evidence of CAD greater than or equal to 50% lesion in a major epicardial vessel • Any invasive coronary angiography or noninvasive anatomic or functional cardiovascular test for detection of CAD, including CCTA and exercise ECG, within the previous 12 months (+/- 30 days); prior resting ECG and/or resting echo do not constitute an exclusion to participation • Known significant congenital, valvular (greater than or equal to moderate) or cardiomyopathic process (hypertrophic cardiomyopathy or reduced systolic left ventricular [LV] function [LV ejection fraction less than 40%]) that could explain cardiac symptoms • Contraindication to a CCTA, including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Allergy to iodinated contrast agent – Pregnancy • Any other contraindications that would preclude performing a CCTA per local site practice, such as 1 or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Inability to receive beta blockers if heart rate is greater than 65 beats per minute – Agatston score greater than 800 – Body mass index (BMI) greater than 40 – Cardiac arrhythmia • Life expectancy less than 2 years • Unable to provide written informed consent or participate in long-term-follow-up