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The role of detailed coronary atherosclerosis evaluation by CT in ischemic heart disease

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The Role of Detailed Coronary Atherosclerosis Evaluation by CT in Ischemic Heart Disease

1. Estimating risk for future cardiovascular events should be on the totality and morphology of atherosclerotic plaque within the coronary arteries (this thesis)
2. A continuum exists between plaque composition or density and cardiovascular disease risk (this thesis)
3. By performing serial CCTA, the magnitude of plaque progression and the change in composition can be evaluated, which are clinically important (this thesis)
4. There is a natural trend of plaque to calcify over time, which can be accelerated by the use of statins (this thesis)
5. Very dense, hardened, calcified plaques have low risk for future myocardial infarction (this thesis)
6. Myocardial infarctions occur in patients and coronary arteries with prior occult coronary artery disease that was not necessarily severely narrowed (Chang, JACC, 2018)
7. By identification of non-obstructive plaque that does not produce myocardial ischemia, a coronary CT angiography tests provides better prognostic information than cardiac stress tests (Hoffmann, Circulation, 2017)
8. A comprehensive anatomic interpretation with CCTA, including quantification of obstructive and nonobstructive atherosclerotic plaque, was superior to functional imaging in the diagnosis of invasive FFR (Stuijzand, JAMA cardiol, 2020)
9. Coronary CT angiography in addition to standard care in patients with stable chest pain resulted in a significantly lower rate of death from coronary heart disease or nonfatal myocardial infarction at 5 years than standard care alone (Newby, NEJM, 2018)
10. It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is truly essential is invisible to the eye (gemodificeerd van Antoine de Saint-Exupery)
11. We all choke but winners know how to handle choking better than losers (gemodificeerd van John McEnroe)
12. Trying to improve to better is the enemy of good (gemodificeerd van Voltaire)