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Correspondence

Patient anxiety during CCTAs

Dear Dr. Ohana

I just read your article in the current issue of JCCT¹ regarding patient anxiety during CCTAs.

This is a real problem and guidance on dealing with it would be helpful, but I do not believe the data presented supports the authors' conclusions.

Their main conclusion, as stated several times, is that anxiety does not affect image quality. BUT they report that they did not scan any patients with a heart rate exceeding 70 bpm after premedication. Patients with faster heart rates were "rescheduled".

A more accurate conclusion is that scanning with their protocols on their CT systems (rotation time or temporal resolution not stated), shows no significant difference in image quality up to a heart rate of 70 bpm.

This conclusion is unrelated to anxiety.

As an aside, it would be interesting to know what premedication protocol they used and over how long a period of time for administering up to 300 mg metoprolol or 360 mg diltiazem p.o. before a CCTA.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



References

1. Ohana M, Sellers SL, Mooney J, et al. Prevalence and impact of scan-related anxiety during coronary CT angiography: a prospective cohort study of 366 patients. *J Cardiovasc Comput Tomogr.* 2018;12(5):364–371.

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