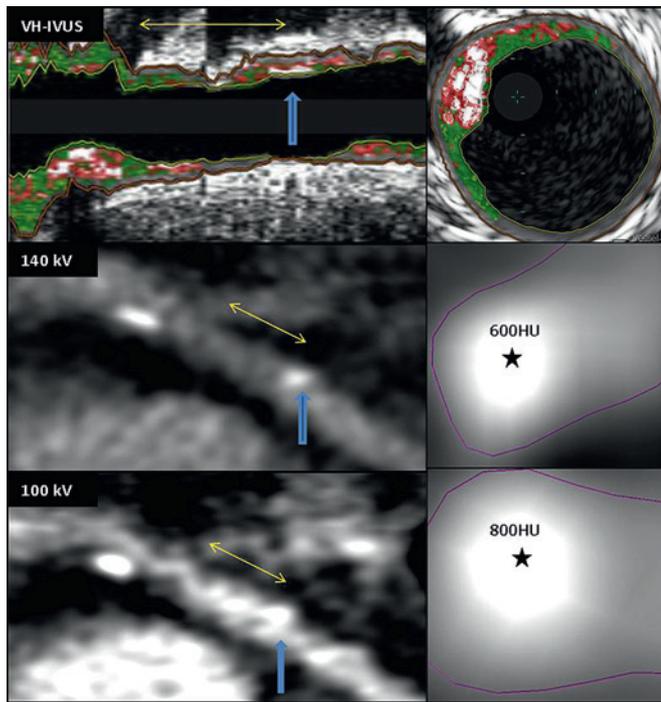


significant overlap between their attenuation ranges, most crucially between necrotic core and fibrous plaque. Recently introduced dual energy CT (DECT) permits acquisition of 2 different energy data sets simultaneously, with the change in attenuation of plaque components to different energies depending upon their material composition. We therefore examined whether DECT was better than single energy CT in determining plaque components defined by virtual histology IVUS.

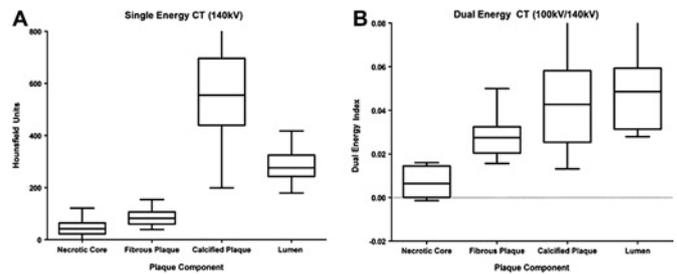
Methods 20 patients underwent DECT and 3-vessel VH-IVUS. CT data was obtained at peak voltages of 100 kV and 140 kV. 52 plaques were chosen with either homogenous fibrous plaque or confluent areas of calcified plaque or necrotic core as defined by VH-IVUS. VH-IVUS images were co-registered and orientated with the corresponding CT images using distance from coronary ostia and fiducial markers (Abstract 113 figure 1). Multiple regions of interest (ROI) were placed within the plaque components or in lumen on cross sectional CT images pre-classified by VH-IVUS (Abstract 113 figure 1). ROI densities were measured (in Hounsfield Units) and assigned to the plaque component. A dual energy index (DEI) was created for each component, defined as the ratio of the difference in attenuation at 2 different energies / sum of attenuation with 1000 added to each attenuation value to avoid negatives.



Abstract 113 Figure 1 Demonstration of plaque co-registration between VH-IVUS and 140kV/100kV CT data sets. Calcified plaque is identified 5mm from side branch adjacent to characteristic calcification (yellow line). Cross section taken through this plaque (blue arrow) and following orientation with VH-IVUS cross section HU region of interest sampling is performed in calcified plaque.

Results Attenuation values for 1088 ROIs were measured from 70 paired data sets at 100 kV and 140 kV creating 70 DEIs (12 necrotic core, 11 fibrous plaque, 29 calcified plaques and 18 lumen). Values obtained using a single energy data set showed good differentiation between calcified plaque and all others ($p < 0.05$), but considerable overlap between necrotic core and fibrous plaque ($p = ns$) (Abstract 113 figure 2A) (Abstract 113 table 1). In DECT, lumen (iodinated contrast) showed the greatest change in attenuation and hence had the highest DEI. Necrotic core had the lowest DEI and hence could be distinguished from all other components ($p < 0.001$). Importantly, in contrast to the single energy data, DEI derived from both energy

data sets permitted resolution of necrotic core and fibrous plaque without overlap (Abstract 113 figure 2B).



Abstract 113 Figure 2 (A) Defined CT attenuation spectra of plaque components using a single energy (140kV), calcified plaque is distinguishable from all others but necrotic core and fibrous plaque overlap. (B) The use of dual energy index from the attenuation data at 2 energies (100/140kV) allows significant separation of necrotic core and fibrous plaque ($p < 0.05$) (Tukeys multiple comparison test).

Abstract 113 Table 1

Plaque Component	100 kV mean HU (SD)	140 kV mean HU (SD)	Mean Difference (100–140 kV)	Dual Energy Index (mean)
Necrotic Core	57.26 (42.20)	42.69 (31.51)	14.57	0.0071
Fibrous Plaque	148.30 (49.47)	84.60 (30.34)	63.69	0.0283
Calcified Plaque	733.10 (226.7)	582.20 (194.9)	150.9	0.0450
Lumen	411.5 (82.27)	282.90 (55.93)	128.6	0.0483

Conclusions The additional attenuation data provided by DECT improves the differentiation of plaque components when compared to conventional single energy CT. In particular, DECT may allow better differentiation of necrotic core and fibrous plaque, a weakness of conventional cardiac CT, allowing for more accurate non-invasive identification of vulnerable plaques.

114 RADIATION DOSES TRENDS FROM CARDIAC CT USING A CARDIAC SPECIFIC CONVERSION FACTOR: SYSTEM UNDERSTANDING & AN OPTIMISATION STRATEGY SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCES THE DOSE TO THE PATIENTS IN A CLINICAL SERVICE

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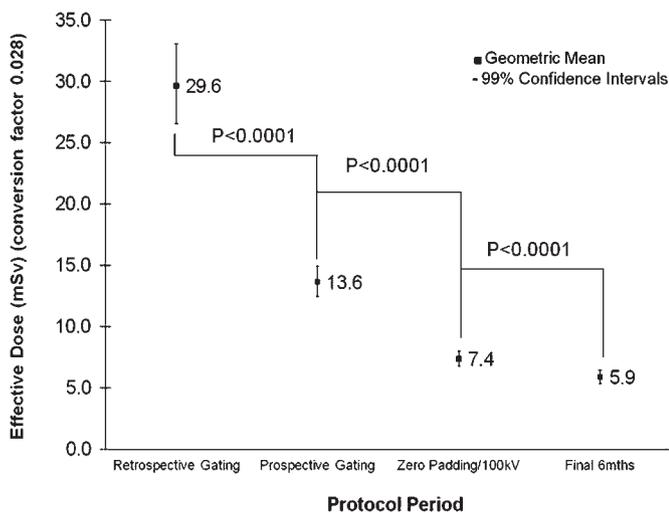
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Background CT coronary angiography CTCA now has an established role in the investigation of patients with chest pain. Under the IRMER regulations radiation doses to patients should be kept as low as reasonably practical (ALARP). Previous publications have used a chest conversion factor to calculate the effective dose (mSv) from CTCA. We have previously demonstrated that chest conversion factors significantly under-estimate the effective dose to the patient when applied to CTCA and have calculated a cardiac specific conversion factor of 0.028 mSv (mGy.cm)⁻¹. Our department follows the ALARP ethos and has implemented new technologies together with physician training to reduce the radiation dose from CTCA. We aimed to investigate what impact the implementation of new technologies has had on the radiation dose of CTCA.

Method All patients who were coded as attending for a cardiac CT scan on the PACS and CRIS systems were included in the analysis. Scan indication included: rule out coronary artery disease, CABG assessment, pre-EP studies and problem solving. CT scanning

between September 2007 and August 2010 was included; the total dose for the whole examination is used including the scout and non-enhanced scan (calcium score). Scans were performed on a Light-speed VCT or HD750 (GE Healthcare). To calculate the effective dose a conversion factor was applied to the dose length product of each examination. The DLP is the radiation dose in one CT slice multiplied by the length of the scan. A cardiac specific conversion factor was used rather than a chest conversion factor (0.014) which significantly underestimates the effective dose from CTCA. Data was transformed and expressed as a geometric mean with 99% CI. For each analysis period all scans were included; retrospective, prospective, low kV and zero padding.

Results In the 3-year period 1736 scans were performed. The mean radiation dose in the first 6 months of the study (retrospective gating) was 29.6 mSv; using the accepted conversion factor at the time the mean dose was 14.9 mSv. In March 2008 prospective ECG gating was installed; this resulted in a halving of the mean radiation dose to 13.6 mSv. In March 2009 the scanner parameters were set to zero padding and 100 kV reducing the dose to 7.4 mSv. For the final 6 months the mean radiation dose for a cardiac scan was 5.9 mSv; this Abstract 114 figure 1 incorporates scans performed with standard filtered back projection, iterative reconstruction, high definition scanning and retrospective ECG gating for a variety of differing clinical scenarios.



Abstract 114 Figure 1 Effective dose (mSv) by protocol period.

Conclusion The introduction of dose saving strategies and appropriate physician training has led to a significant reduction in the radiation dose from cardiac CT. As CTCA programmes become established in hospitals around the UK it is important that clinicians have the appropriate training and experience to keep the radiation dose to the patients as low as reasonably practical.

Abstract 114 Table 1

Scanning protocol	Retrospective Gating—dose modulation	Prospective gating	Zero padding—100 kV	Final 6 months
Number of Patients	150	489	636	461
Mean Effective Dose (mSv)	29.6	13.6	7.4	5.9
CI _s (99%) (mSv)	33	14.9	8	6.5
	26.6	12.5	6.8	5.3

115 ATRIAL HIGH RATE EPISODES AND ATRIAL FIBRILLATION BURDEN: DO THEY HAVE SIMILAR ASSOCIATION WITH CARDIAC REMODELLING?

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Background and Objectives Contemporary pacemaker devices allow quantification of atrial high-rate episodes (AHREs) and atrial fibrillation burden (AFB) accurately. Cumulative ventricular pacing (Vp) is associated with development of atrial fibrillation, but it is not clear if AHREs and AFB share similar pathophysiologic associations with left atrium (LA) and ventricle (LV) function and remodelling.

Methods In total, 87 patients with dual-chamber pacemaker underwent two-dimension (2D) and tissue Doppler imaging (TDI) echocardiography. LA volume (LAV) was evaluated by area-length method and indexed to body surface area. Septal A' was used to measure regional LA function. LV systolic and diastolic parameters were evaluated by mitral inflow velocity (E, A, E/A), LV ejection fraction (biplane Simpson's) and septal TDI velocity. The presence of AHREs (defined by atrial-rate ≥ 220 beats/min and ≥ 5 minutes) and AFB were derived from pacemaker diagnostics. Plasma markers of remodelling, matrix metalloproteinases-1 (MMP1) and tissue inhibitors of metalloproteinases-1 (TIMP1), were analysed by ELISA.

Results Baseline characteristics and comorbidities were comparable between groups (Abstract 115 table 1). Patients with AHREs had significantly larger indexed LAV ($p=0.011$) and higher cumulative Vp ($p=0.012$), but this was not associated with elevation of MMP1 and TIMP1. Plasma markers, LV systolic and diastolic parameters were comparable between groups. In patients with AHREs, the AFB ranged from 0 to 99% and correlated with E/A ($r=0.966$, $p<0.001$), and inversely correlated with late acceleration velocity (A) ($r=-0.612$, $p=0.009$). On linear regression analysis, A, E/A, septal A' were independently associated with AFB (all $p<0.01$).

Conclusion Cumulative Vp and increased LAV are associated with the development of AHRE, but AFB is independently associated with changes in LA function and LV diastolic function. This study suggests AHREs and AFB have dissimilar pathophysiologic associations with left atrium and ventricle remodelling.

Abstract 115 Table 1

	No AHRE (n=70)	AHRE (n=17)	p Value
Age (years)	71.0 \pm 11.6	75.4 \pm 8.8	0.1
Body mass index (kg/m ²)	26.4 \pm 4.4	27.6 \pm 4.7	0.38
Indexed LA volume (ml/m ²)	27.4 \pm 7.9	34.8 \pm 9.4	0.01
LV ejection fraction (%)	52.8 \pm 11.9	55.1 \pm 9.2	0.4
E/A	0.8 \pm 0.2	1.0 \pm 0.6	0.23
Septal A' (cm/s)	8.9 \pm 2.2	7.9 \pm 2.6	0.16
Septal S' (cm/s)	6.6 \pm 1.8	6.5 \pm 1.4	0.71
Septal E/E'	13.7 \pm 6.2	14.1 \pm 3.5	0.74
Percentage Vp	21.9 (1.8–99.0)	98.6 (41.0–99.9)	0.01

116 CRT OPTIMISATION: IMPROVING ECHOCARDIOGRAPHIC TECHNIQUES BY ACCOMMODATING BIOLOGICAL VARIABILITY WITHIN DIFFERENT ECHOCARDIOGRAPHIC PARAMETERS

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Background In optimisation of CRT (and even selection for implantation) we may have underestimated the impact of beat-to-beat