

**Introduction** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) have released guidelines for the investigation of chest pain of recent onset (1). There is concern that the guidelines will increase the burden on cardiac imaging, requiring service reconfiguration and investment (2, 3). This study was performed to assess the impact of the guidelines on outpatient cardiology services in the UK.

**Methods** 595 consecutive patients attending chest pain clinics at two hospitals over six months preceding release of the NICE guidelines (51% male; median age 55 yrs (range 22–94 yrs)) were risk stratified using NICE criteria. Preliminary cardiac investigations recommended by NICE were compared with existing clinical practice and the relative costs calculated.

**Results** NICE would have recommended 443 patients (74%) for discharge without cardiac investigation, 10 (2%) for cardiac computed tomography (CCT), 69 (12%) for functional cardiac imaging and 73 (12%) for invasive coronary angiography (ICA). Relative to existing practice there would have been a trend towards reduced functional cardiac imaging (–24%;  $p=0.06$ ) and increased CCT (+43%;  $p=0.436$ ) but a significant increase in ICA (+508%;  $p<0.001$ ). The cost of investigations recommended by NICE would have been £15 881 greater than existing practice.

**Conclusions** This study suggests implementation of the NICE guidelines will require investment in cardiology services, particularly ICA. It will be necessary to establish and maintain CCT for relatively few patients; also to establish and maintain functional cardiac imaging even though referrals are likely to decline. Individual hospitals should assess their local populations prior to service reconfiguration.

**Abstract 126 Table 1** Preliminary cardiac investigations undertaken (pre-NICE) compared with those recommended by NICE (N=595)

	Pre-NICE	NICE	% change
No investigation	33	443	+1242% ( $p<0.001$ )
Cardiac CT	7	10	+43% ( $p=0.436$ )
Functional cardiac assessment	91	69	–24% ( $p=0.06$ )
Invasive angiography	12	73	+508 ( $p<0.001$ )

## 127 TIMING OF CARDIOVASCULAR MRI AFTER ACUTE MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION: EFFECT ON ESTIMATES OF INFARCT CHARACTERISTICS AND PREDICTION OF LATE VENTRICULAR REMODELLING

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**Background** The pathophysiological remodelling processes associated with acute myocardial infarction (AMI) evolve over time and the optimal acute imaging time point to predict medium-term surrogates for outcome has not been established. This study aimed to define the evolution of infarct characteristics by cardiovascular magnetic resonance (CMR), and to assess whether CMR data acquired at “day 2” or at “1 week” post-AMI are stronger predictors of infarct size and left ventricular (LV) function measured at 3 months.

**Methods** Fifty-seven patients were recruited with first presentation ST elevation AMI treated successfully with primary percutaneous coronary intervention. Cine, T2-weighted and late gadolinium enhancement CMR imaging were performed at days 2, 7, 30 and 90 after index presentation.

**Results** Infarct size and extent of myocardial oedema decreased significantly between “day 2” and “1 week” (mean %LV-scar (SD) 27.2 (13.9) vs 21.6 (14.1),  $p<0.001$  and %LV-AAR (Area At Risk) (SD), 37.9 (15.2) vs 32.3 (14.3),  $p=0.003$ ). These changes were accompanied by a significant improvement in LV ejection fraction (%LVEF (SD), 41.7 (9.6) vs 44.6 (10.1),  $p<0.001$ ). CMR data

acquired at “1 week” were better predictors of LVEF and infarct size at “3 months” than data collected at “day 2”.

**Conclusions** The extent of myocardial oedema and infarct size decrease significantly during the first week after reperfusion for AMI and these changes are associated with a significant improvement in LVEF over the same interval. These findings have implications for the timing of CMR studies in the early post-infarct period. We found that the percentage myocardial salvage index did not change significantly between “day 2” and “1 week”. Therefore, accurate assessment of the efficacy of reperfusion therapy can be made up to one week after revascularization. In addition, CMR data acquired at “1 week” were better predictors of CMR endpoints measured at “3 months”. Thus, we conclude that the optimal time point to image patients post-reperfusion therapy for AMI is at 1 week.

## 128 BRIGHT BLOOD T2 WEIGHTED MRI HAS HIGHER DIAGNOSTIC PRECISION AND ACCURACY THAN DARK BLOOD STIR MRI FOR ASSESSMENT OF THE ISCHAEMIC AREA-AT-RISK AND MYOCARDIAL SALVAGE IN ACUTE MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION

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**Background** T2-weighted MRI reveals myocardial oedema and enables estimation of the ischaemic area-at-risk and myocardial salvage in patients with acute myocardial infarction (MI). We compared the diagnostic accuracy of a new bright blood T2-weighted with a standard black blood T2-weighted MRI in patients with acute MI.

**Methods** A breath hold bright blood T2-weighted ACUTE pulse sequence with normalisation for coil sensitivity and a breath hold T2 dark blood short  $\tau$  inversion recovery (STIR) sequence were used to depict the area-at-risk in 54 consecutive acute MI patients. Infarct size was measured on gadolinium late contrast enhancement images.

**Results** Compared with dark blood T2-weighted MRI, consensus agreements between independent observers for identification of myocardial oedema were higher with bright blood T2-weighted MRI when evaluated per patient ( $p<0.001$ ) and per segment of left ventricle ( $p<0.001$ ). Compared to bright blood T2-weighted MRI, dark blood T2-weighted MRI under-estimated the area-at-risk compared to infarct size ( $p<0.001$ ). The 95% limits of agreement for inter-observer agreements for the ischaemic area-at-risk and myocardial salvage were wider with dark blood T2-weighted MRI than with bright blood T2-weighted MRI. Bright blood enabled more accurate identification of the culprit coronary artery with correct identification in 94% of cases compared to 61% for dark blood ( $p<0.001$ ).

**Conclusion** Bright blood T2-weighted MRI has higher diagnostic accuracy than dark blood T2-weighted MRI. Additionally, dark blood T2-weighted MRI may underestimate area-at-risk and myocardial salvage.

## 129 MYOCARDIAL SALVAGE DURING PRIMARY PCI CAN BE PREDICTED IN THE CATH LAB

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**Objectives** This study investigated the relationship between the index of microcirculatory resistance (IMR) and myocardial salvage as determined by T2-weighted and contrast-enhanced cardiac magnetic resonance (CMR) imaging in patients undergoing primary percutaneous coronary intervention (pPCI) for ST elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI).