Letter to Editor

Re: Value of ECG-gated Thallium-201 Dipyridamole SPECT in Borderline Cases of Myocardial Perfusion Scan

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To the Editors:

In Value of ECG-gated Thallium-201 Dipyridamole SPECT in Borderline Cases of Myocardial Perfusion Scan, reference is made to attenuation by diaphragm in males. Two male patients were described as having fixed inferior radionuclide perfusion abnormalities without a corresponding coronary angiographic finding. Three additional male patients demonstrated reverse redistribution (“reversible” in the article) with negative angiograms.

It has recently been demonstrated that inferior artifactual attenuation is actually usually due to thickened stomach wall rather than to diaphragm. The artifact is largely preventable in most cases by a simple imaging method in which effervescent crystals or granules are administered orally to the patient soon prior to imaging, since this thins stomach wall.1

With that in mind, one wonders whether the angiograms of the former two patients might thus have been preventable. Since the stress studies of the latter three patients were apparently negative inferiorly, those angiograms were presumably performed for research purposes or because of defects elsewhere in the myocardium. In any event, the inferior defect present at redistribution might also have been preventable.

Research utilizing and refining this new technique is to be encouraged.1

Respectfully,

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