Integrated Use of FFR and IMR in Daily Practice

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Fractional Flow Reserve and the Index of Microcirculatory Resistance:





Estimation of Coronary Flow



De Bruyne, et al. Circulation 2002;104:2003



Derivation of IMR:

• Resistance = Δ Pressure / Flow

• Δ Pressure = P_d-P_v Flow \cong 1 / T_{mn}

•
$$IMR = P_d - P_v / (1 / T_{mn})$$

 $\blacksquare IMR = P_d \times T_{mn} \qquad \begin{array}{l} at \ maximal \\ hyperemia... \end{array}$



Circulation 2003;107:3129-3132.

Practical Measurement of IMR





Accessing IMR







Flushing the System





Resting T_{mn} Measurements





Hyperemic T_{mn} Measurements







Calculating IMR





Case Example (April 13,2015):

- 72 year old retired naval officer
- HTN and dyslipidemia
- PCI of proximal LAD in 2006
- Some relief of angina
- Recent worsening angina
- Multiple stress tests (mild apical ischemia) and coronary angiograms



































Myocardial Bridge







IVUS of LAD









Case Summary:

- No significant endothelial dysfunction/spasm
- Moderate restenosis of the LAD stent with mild diffuse epicardial atherosclerosis, which is not functionally significant
- Short mild bridging which is not significant
- Evidence for microvascular dysfunction
- Moderate OM disease which is not functionally significant



Case Summary (cont.):

Treatment plan:

- Reassure patient no need for stent based on FFR results.
- Notify patient that we have a diagnosis for chest pain: microvascular dysfunction in conjunction with epicardial CAD.
- Augment medical therapy (statin, ACE I, carvedilol, calcium blocker, nitrate)



- 139 patients referred for coronary angiography because of symptoms and/or abnormal stress test and found to have "normal" appearing coronaries
- FFR, IMR, CFR, IVUS and acetylcholine challenge were performed down the LAD



Patient Characteristic	n=139
Age (years)	54 ±11
Female	77%
Hypertension	53%
Diabetes	23%
Dyslipidemia	63%
Tobacco Use	8%



- The mean IMR was 19.6 ±9.1
- Microvascular dysfunction was present in 21% (defined as IMR ≥ 25)
- Patients with microvascular dysfunction were older and more often hypertensive and diabetic



Endothelial Dysfunction:

After Acetylcholine



After Nitroglycerin





Diffuse Mild Epicardial Disease:





Microvascular Dysfunction:

Index of Microcirculatory Resistance ≥ 25





Myocardial Bridging:

Diastole

Systole





77% of patients had at least one occult coronary circulatory abnormality





Conclusion:

- Measurement of FFR and IMR can help to diagnose the etiology of chest pain/abnormal stress test in patient with angiographically normal appearing coronaries.
- This information can reassure patients and prevent unnecessary testing and treatment.

