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Letter to the Editor

Comparison of spiral and electron beam tomography in the evaluation of coronary calcification in asymptomatic persons[☆]

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In a previously published article, Budoff and coauthors suggest to be cautious regarding calcium scanning using spiral CT especially in patients with relatively low calcium scores (<200) [1]. However, the technology used in that study (Siemens Somatom Plus 4A) is outdated and does not represent the current state of the art regarding calcium scanning: The rotation time applied was 750 ms (today: 500 ms). More important, the authors did not use any form of ECG-triggering. In a recently published study [2] we have shown that ECG-triggering is pivotal for calcium scanning with multi-slice spiral CT, especially in patients with low scores. If ECG-triggering is used, a good correlation to EBCT data is provided [3].

References

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- [2] Silber S. Data from the MUNICH-Registry. Importance of ECG-Triggering for Ruling Out Coronary Calcification with the Multi-Slice-CT in Individuals Asymptomatic for Ischemic CAD. *Herz* 2001;26:260–72.
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