

Women & Heart Disease

By Dr. Claudio Smuclovsky



Cardiovascular disease (CVD)

is the leading cause of death worldwide, even in places like India. CVD kills more people annually than all cancers combined, and coronary disease accounts for 20% of all deaths.

THE FACTS

One person dies per minute from coronary disease in the USA, and 2 suffer a heart attack per minute.

40% of women will develop coronary artery disease

50% of heart attack patients will die on the first event.

62% of women (50% of men) who have a heart attack had no prior warning.

The problem lies in the fact that a patient experiences a plaque rupture in the wall of an artery of the heart that suddenly causes a heart attack. It has been recently reported that women tend to have many fewer symptoms than men and have more debilitating complications from a heart attack.

Until now, it was not possible to non-invasively evaluate with precision the heart attack risk of a patient.

The most recent and exclusive technology available is called cardiac CT angiography.

CARDIAC CT ANGIOGRAPHY (CCTA)

The new 64-slice CT technology involves X-rays that produce thousands of high resolution images of the heart in a single short breath. It can accurately assess disease of the coronary arteries of the heart and also how well it functions. An intravenous injection of iodinated contrast is required to perform the study. The study is not recommended for patients with kidney failure.

Indications:

The study is most beneficial for people over the age of 40 that have the following risk factors: smoking, high cholesterol, hypertension and diabetes. It may be valuable as well for patients with chest pain in which the cause is not explained by standard tests. The study is also commonly used to clarify questionable positive stress tests, prior coronary artery stenting and heart surgery. The radiation involved is similar to a nuclear stress test.

The cost of the study is \$995, but if medically indicated, it may be covered by most insurance companies. You should consult your physician or seek immediate help at a hospital if you are having active chest pain or shortness of breath.

THE CENTER

South Florida Medical Imaging Cardiovascular Institute in Boca Raton is a pioneer in cardiac CT angiography and is among one of the most prestigious and renowned centers in the country. The personnel are compassionate, experienced and fully licensed.

South Florida Medical Imaging

Cardiovascular Institute highlights include:

- Voted number 7 among the top 10 Outpatient centers in the US
- Interpreted over 5,000 CCTA studies
- Internationally renowned accredited teaching facility
- Established the first teaching center in the US for Philips, training doctors from around the world in the proper use and interpretation of CCTA.
- The center is state-of-the-art and has 10,000 sq. ft. with the latest fully digital technology.

In addition to cardiac imaging, the facility features a Women's Center that provides: Mammography, breast biopsies, Ultrasound, Osteoporosis screening (DEXA scanning), MRI, fluoroscopy, peripheral angiography, uterine artery embolization for uterine fibroids and bleeding. ^{stb}

—Dr. Claudio Smuclovsky is the Medical Director. He completed his training at the University of Miami, School of Medicine, and is Board Certified in Radiology and Nuclear Medicine. He lectures nationally and is a member of the American College of Radiology, a Founding Member of the Society of Cardiovascular Computed.

For more information, or to make an appointment with Dr. Smuclovsky, call South Florida Medical Imaging Cardiovascular Institute at 561-314-2500. 2900 N. Military Trail, Suite 120, Boca Raton, Florida 33431 www.sfmicvi.com.



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