

**L'ECO da sforzo nello studio della cardiopatia ischemica. Il razionale dalla scelta con l'ecostress farmacologico. Come stabilire il test giusto per ogni paziente?**

*VII Congresso di Echocardiochirurgia, Milano, 5-7 maggio 2014*

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Centro Cardiologico Monzino, IRCCS  
Università di Milano**



# Cardiopatía ischemica

## Accuratezza di ECO da sforzo

	<b>sens</b>	<b>spec</b>	<b>acc d</b>
Ryan '88	78%	100%	
Marwick '92	87%	86%	82%
Armstrong '87		86%	
Quinones '92	74%		
Roger '94	91%		
Lumacher	91%	88%	
Mitsuhashi '95	82%	88%	

**Stress echocardiography, stress single-photon-emission computed tomography and electron beam computed tomography for the assessment of coronary artery disease: A meta-analysis of diagnostic performance**

Majanka H. Heijnenbroek-Kal, PhD,<sup>a,b</sup> Kirsten E. Fleischmann, MD, MPH,<sup>c</sup> and M.G. Myriam Hunink, MD, PhD<sup>a</sup>  
*Rotterdam, The Netherlands; San Francisco, CA; and Boston, MA*

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Heijnenbroek-Kal, Fleischmann, and Hunink 419

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CI, Confidence interval; InDOR, natural logarithm of the diagnostic odds ratio.

\*Nonoverlapping confidence intervals indicating a statistically higher specificity than the corresponding SPECT test.

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‡Nonoverlapping confidence intervals indicating a statistically higher sensitivity than the corresponding echocardiography test.

‡Nonoverlapping confidence intervals indicating a statistically higher sensitivity than all other tests, except for adenosine and dipyridamole SPECT and a statistically lower specificity than all other tests except for exercise SPECT.

# Valutazione prognostica

J Am Coll Cardiol. 2007 Jan 16;49(2):227-37. Epub 2006 Dec 29.

**The prognostic value of normal exercise myocardial perfusion imaging and exercise echocardiography: a meta-analysis.**

Metz LD, Beattie M, Hom R, Redberg RF, Grady D, Fleischmann KE.

Department of Medicine, New York University School of Medicine, New York, New York, USA.

**Metaanalisi (articoli dal '90 al '05)**

**9000 pazienti**

**Eco stress negativo bassissima incidenza di eventi (<1% anno nei successivi 4-5 anni, rischio annuale del 0,4-0,9% l'anno) Metz et Al, JACC 2007**

# ECHO stress

- **Esercizio fisico**
- treadmill
- cyclette (in ortostatismo, supina)
- **esercizio isometrico**
- **Farmacologico**
- dobutamina
- dipiridamolo
- adenosina
- **ergonovina**
- **arbutamina**
- **Altri**
- **atrial pacing**
- **cold pressor test**
- **stress mentale**
- **iperventilazione**

# Test alla dobutamina

- E' una catecolamina sintetica, agisce sui recettori beta-1adrenergici del miocardio inducendo aumento della frequenza, aumento della conduzione AV, aumento della contrattilità
- Effetto alfa-adrenergico, con vasocostrizione
- Determina aumento del consumo di O<sub>2</sub> e alla dosi impiegate aumenta di 3 volte il flusso coronarico
- Breve emivita
- Valutazione della vitalità miocardica quando utilizzato a basse dosi

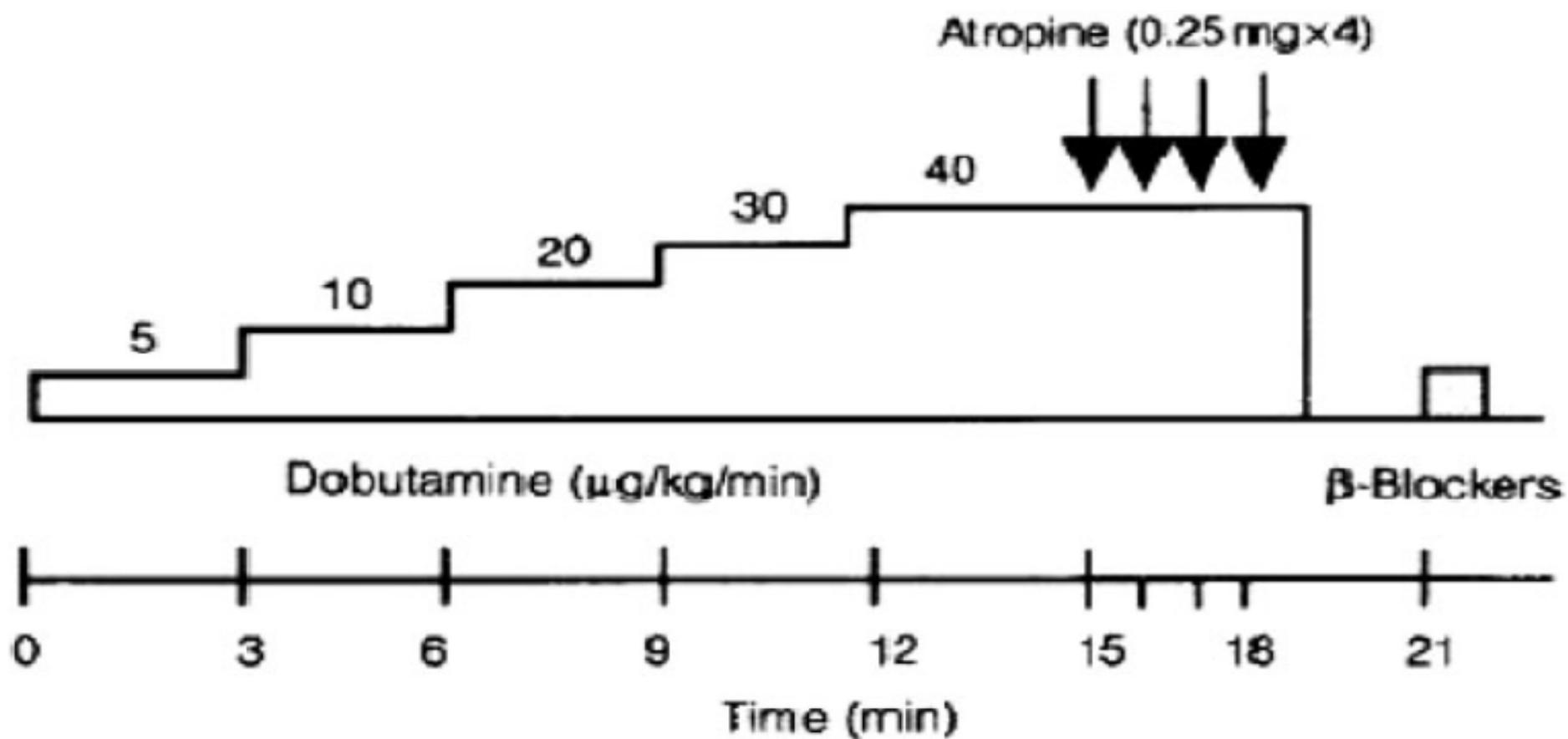


Figure 1 State-of-the art protocol of dobutamine stress echocardiography.

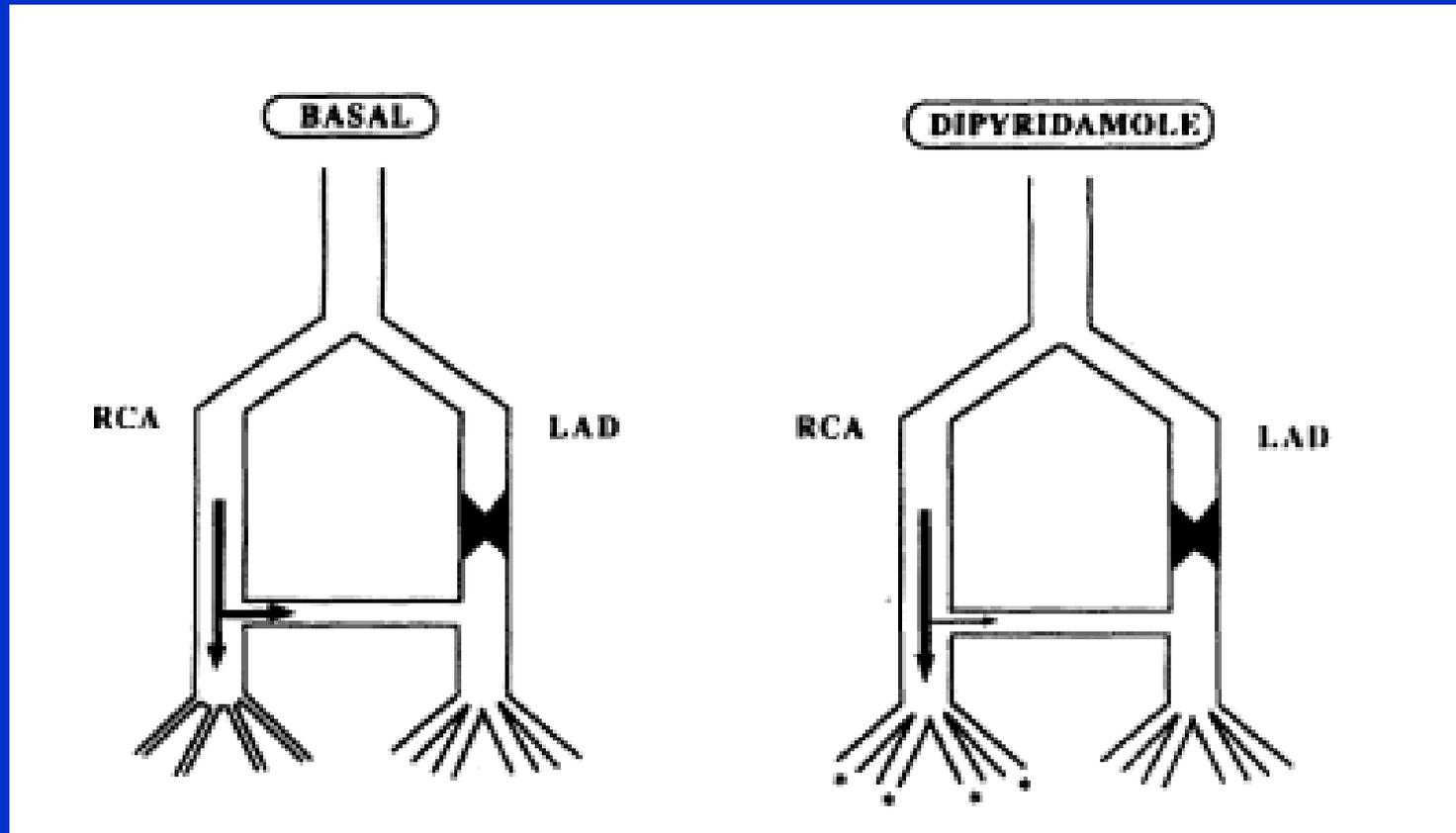
# Effetti collaterali

- **Dobutamina:**
- aritmie ventricolari complesse
- Nausea
- Ipotensione (>30 mm Hg)
- Bradicardia
- Ipertensione
- Ostruzione intraventricolare
- Descritti eventi gravi: rottura di cuore, infarto miocardico, fibrillazione ventricolare, vasospasmo coronarico refrattario

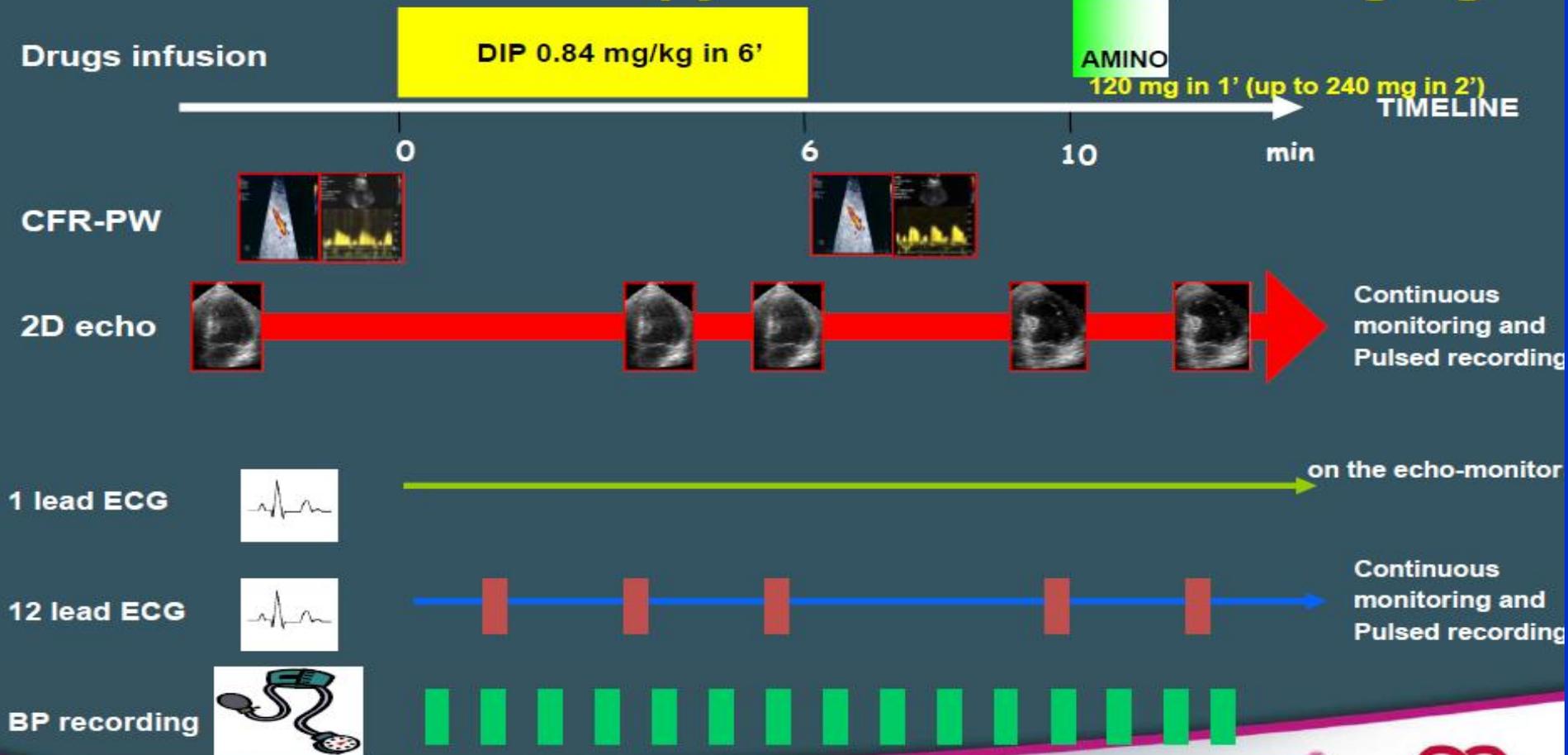
# Test al dipiridamolo

- Farmaco vasodilatatore che riduce la disponibilità di O<sub>2</sub> attraverso fenomeni di maldistribuzione di flusso (furto); stimola i recettori adenosinergici A<sub>2a</sub> presenti su cellule endoteliali e muscolari lisce delle coronarie.
- La dose utilizzata per lo stress aumenta di 4 volte il flusso coronarico

- **Disomogenea distribuzione del flusso coronarico**



# Stress Protocols: Dipyridamole for Dual Imaging



# Controindicazioni ed effetti collaterali

- **Dipiridamolo:**
- Assunzione di cibi contenenti caffeina e farmaci contenenti teofillina
- BAV 2 e 3°
- Asma bronchiale
- Effetti collaterali minori nel 5% dei pazienti (ipotensione, bradicardia, nausea, mal di testa)

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**A meta-analytic comparison of echocardiographic stressors**

*Noguchi Y, Nagata-Kobayashi S, Stahl J E, Wong J B*

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**Authors' conclusions**

The authors conclude that Tap-TEE is a very accurate test for both ruling in and ruling out CAD, although its invasiveness may limit its clinical acceptability. Exercise is a well-balanced satisfactory test for both ruling in and ruling out CAD, but performance might be lower in the elderly. Dobutamine offers a reasonable compromise to exercise. Dipyridamole might be good for ruling in but not for ruling out CAD. Adenosine was the least useful stressor in diagnosing CAD.

# Confronto tra diverse metodiche

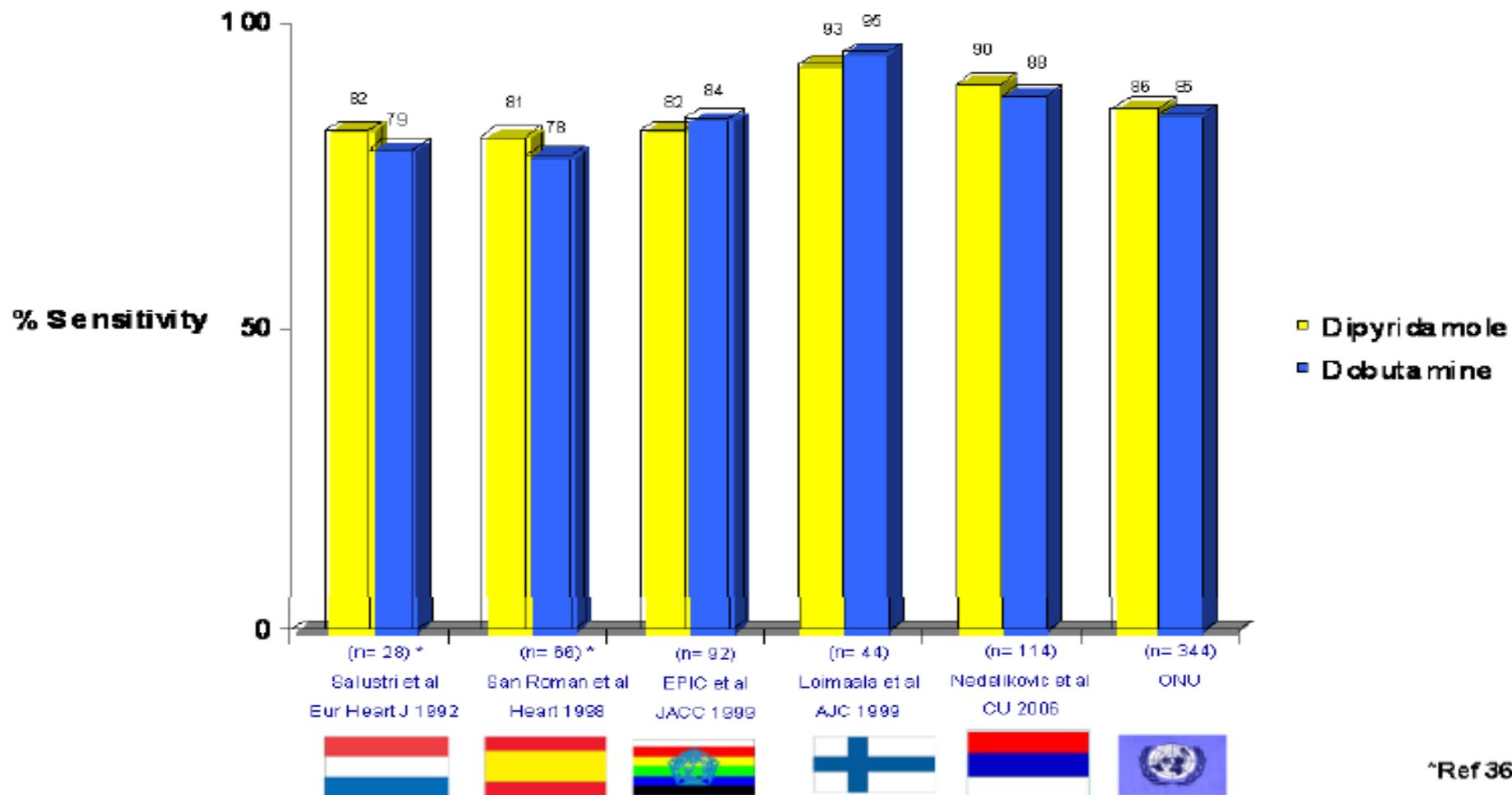
- 117 pts, senza alterazioni della cinetica ventricolare e candidati a coronarografia, sottoposti a esercizio, test al dipiridamolo e test con dobutamina:

	<b>DOBATRO</b>	<b>DIPATRO</b>	<b>EX (Bruce)</b>
• <b>Sens</b>	96%	93%	90%
• <b>Spec</b>	92%	92%	87%

- Nedeljkovic et Al, Cardiovascular Ultrasound, 2006

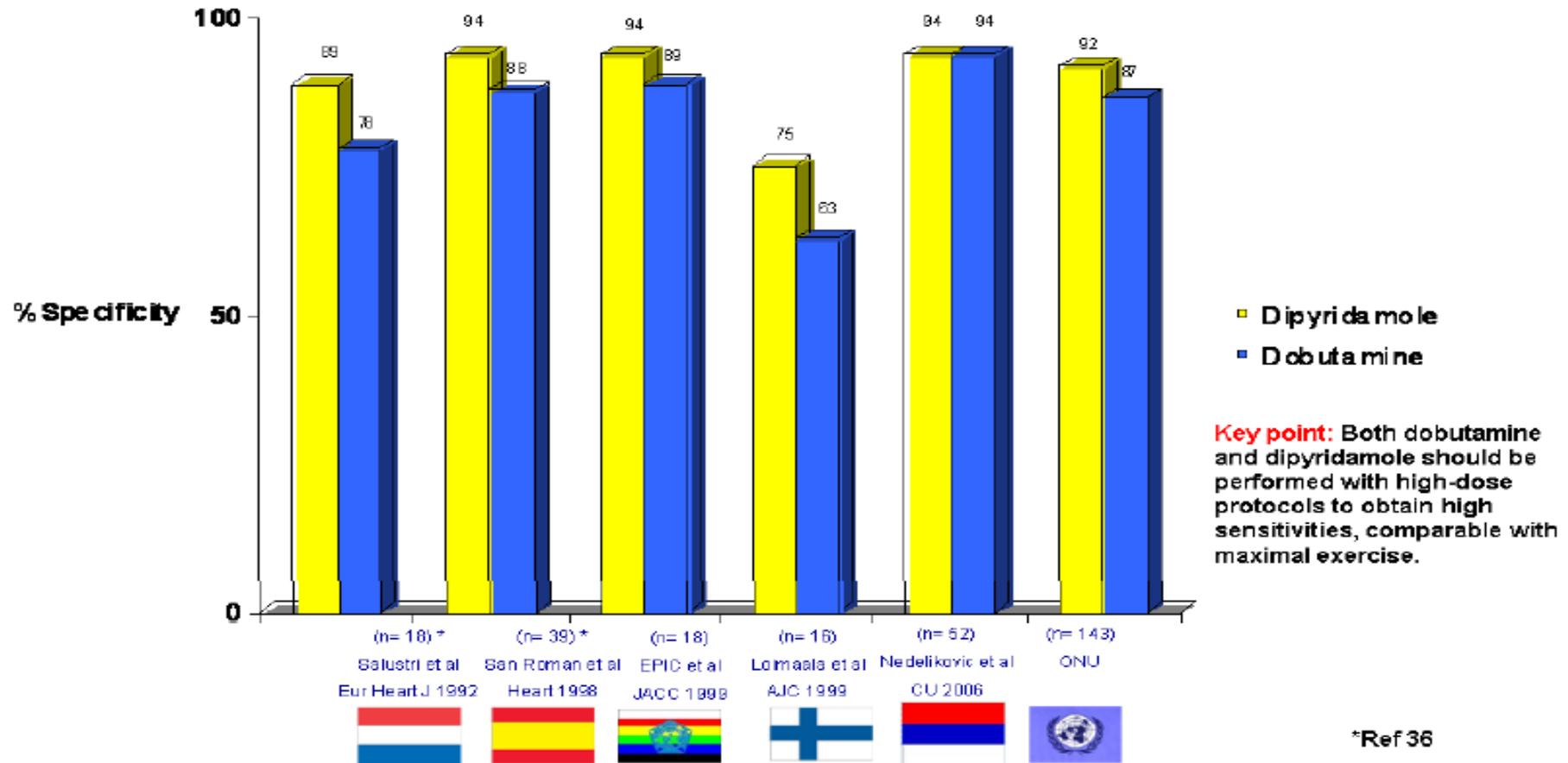
# The Stressors: Dip and Dob\*

## 0.84 in 6'\* or 0.84 in 10' + atropine

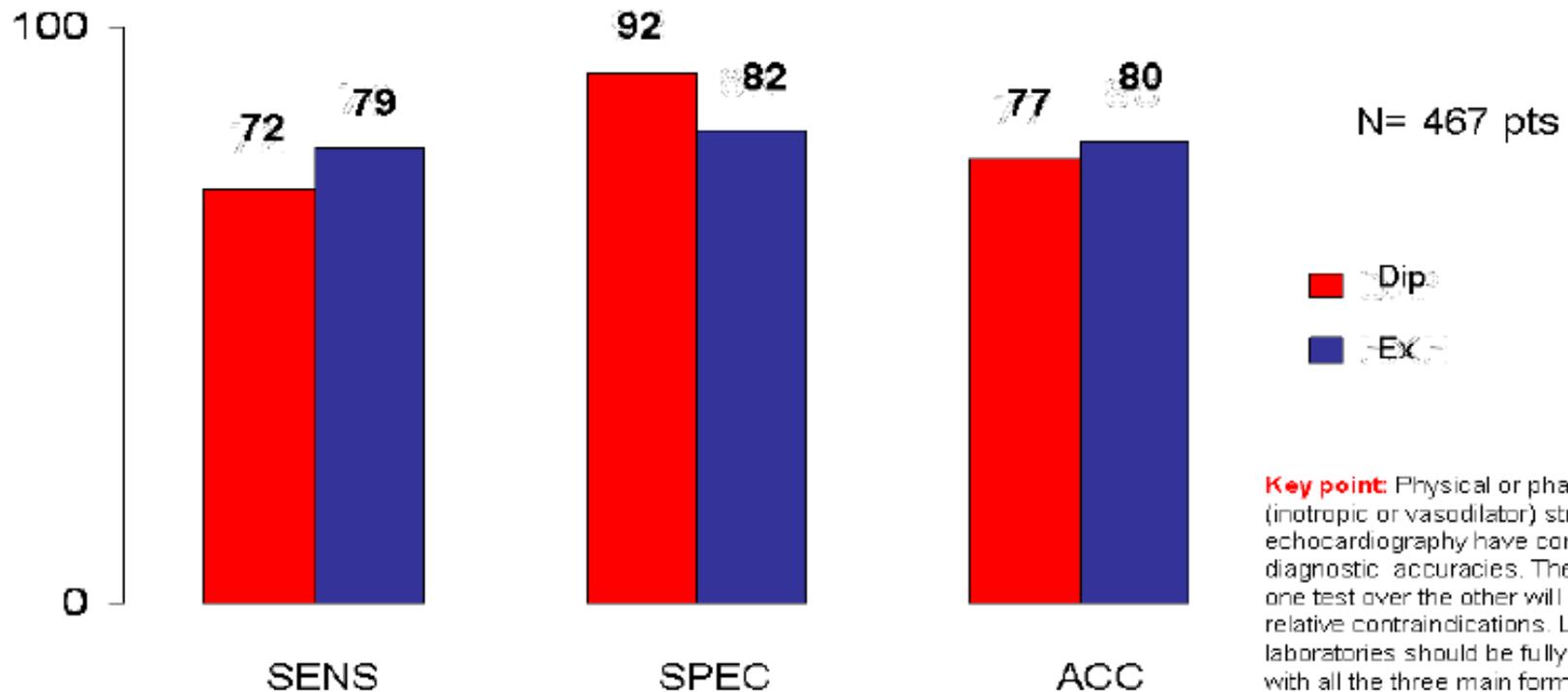


# The Stressors: Dip and Dob\*

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# DIP vs. EXE\*



**Key point:** Physical or pharmacological (inotropic or vasodilator) stress echocardiography have comparable diagnostic accuracies. The choice of one test over the other will depend on relative contraindications. Large volume laboratories should be fully acquainted with all the three main forms of stress in order to apply the test in all patients. In the presence of a submaximal first-line stress for limiting side effects, the second choice should be applied, since submaximal (physical or pharmacological) stresses have suboptimal diagnostic value.

Am J Cardiol. 2001 May 15;87(10):1193-6; A4.

**Comparison of dipyridamole and exercise stress echocardiography for detection of coronary artery disease (a meta-analysis).**

\* de Albuquerque Fonseca L, Picano E.  
CNR-Institute of Clinical Physiology, Pisa, Italy.

# Stress echocardiography, stress single-photon-emission computed tomography and electron beam computed tomography for the assessment of coronary artery disease: A meta-analysis of diagnostic performance

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# Vantaggi dei test farmacologici

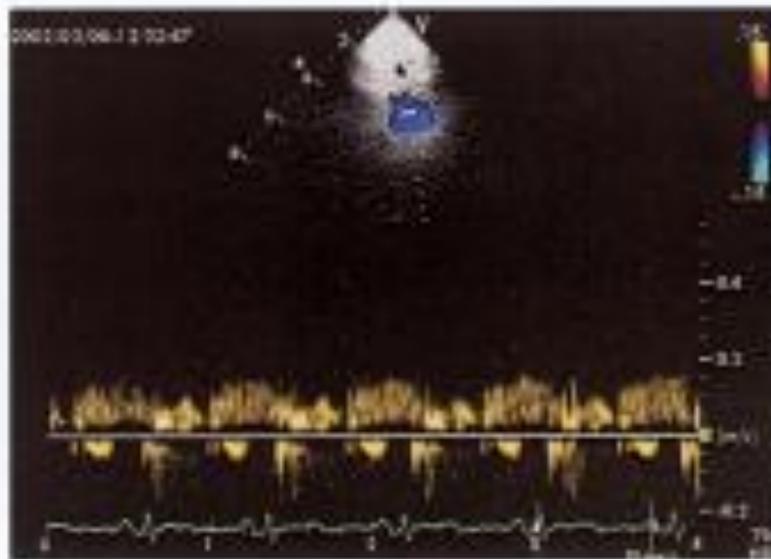
- -organizzativi (non necessitano di laboratorio dedicato con ergometro)
- -possibilità di valutare la riserva di flusso coronarico (quando si usano vasodilatatori)
- -possibilità di utilizzare nuove metodiche
- -qualità delle immagini (nessuna interferenza del respiro né del movimento; possibilità di monitorare le immagini per l'intera durata dell'esame)

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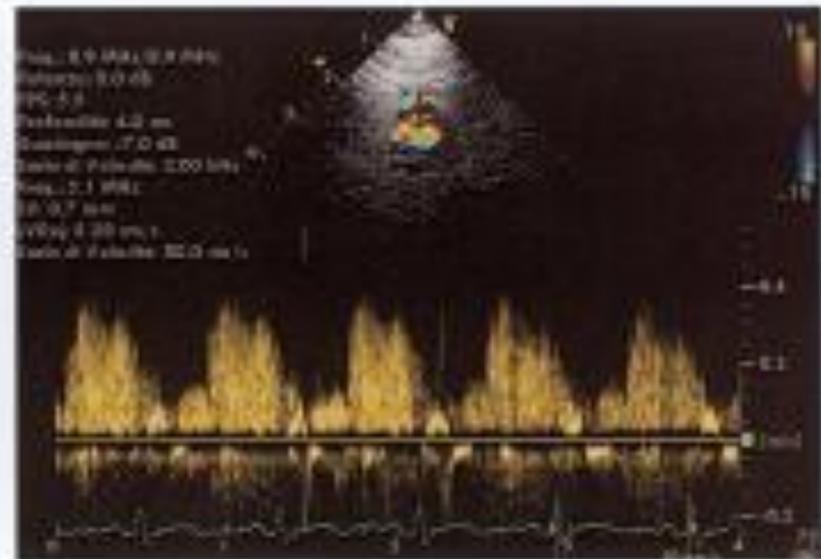
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# Eco stress con vasodilatatori

BASALE



DIPIRIDAMOLO



# Valutazione della riserva di flusso coronarico

- **Valutazione limitata alla IVA**
- **Impossibilità a distinguere la componente legata al macro- e al microcircolo**
- **Valutazione di flusso e di cinetica (la alterazione della cinetica parietale è più efficiente per identificare la presenza di stenosi coronarica significativa, la normalità della riserva di flusso coronarico è più efficace nell'escluderla).**

# Valutazione prognostica

Potere prognostico addizionale combinando la valutazione della riserva di flusso coronarico e le modificazioni della cinetica durante test al dipiridamolo (Cortigiani, JACC 2007; Rigo, Eur Heart J 2007)

In 460 pts con **echo dipiridamolo negativo per alterazioni della cinetica regionale**, lo studio della riserva di flusso coronarica su IVA permetteva di identificare pattern prognostici diversi: riserva di flusso ridotta, in particolare su IVA, forte capacità predittiva di eventi maggiori.

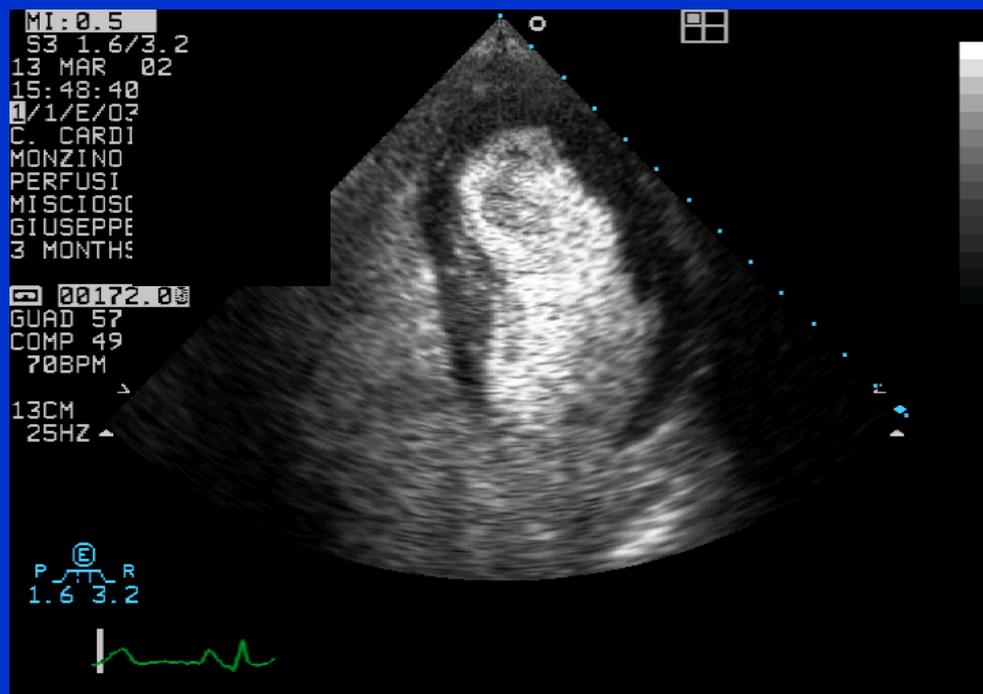
Cortigiani et Al, Heart 2009.

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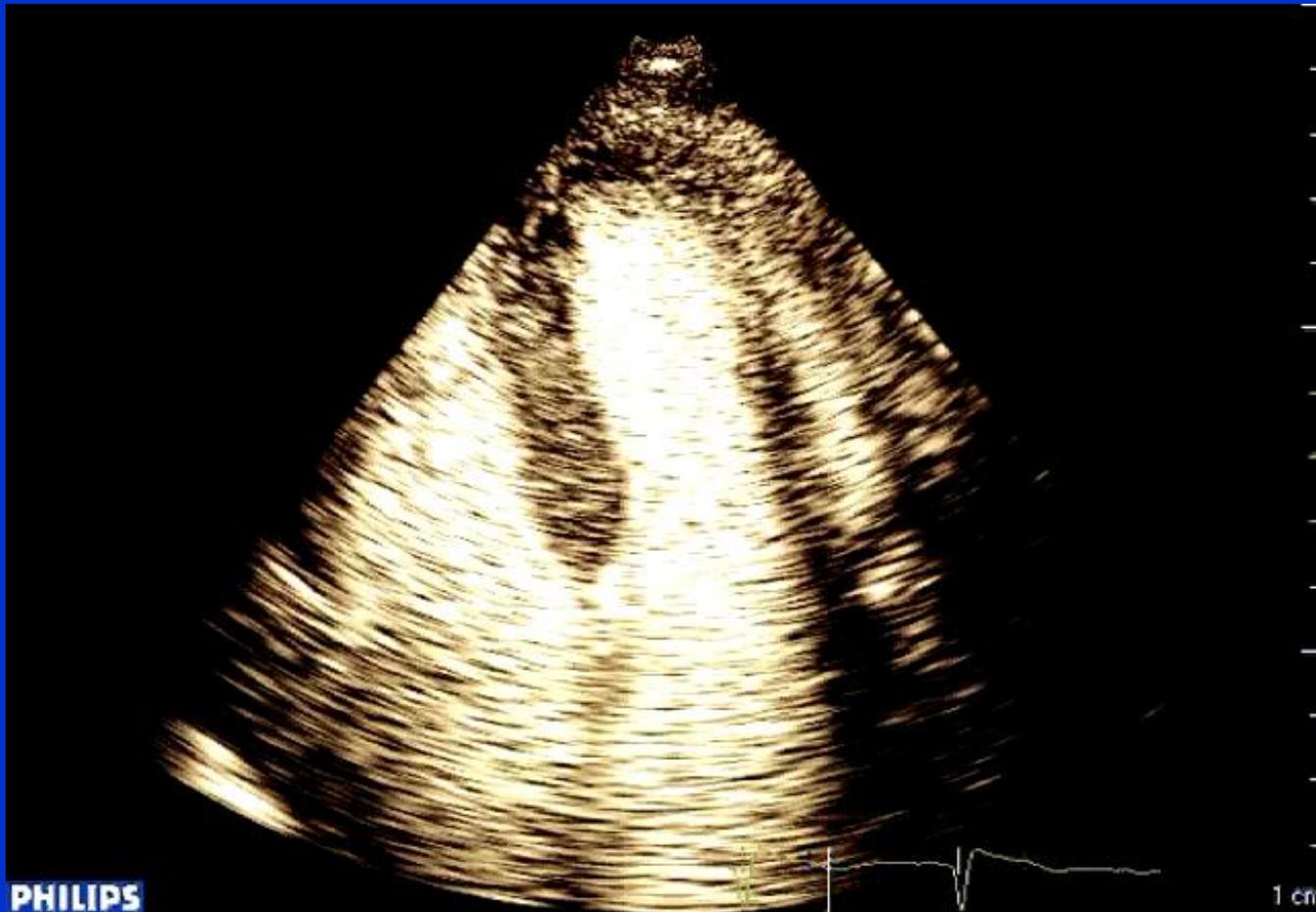
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# Nuove tecnologie applicate a stress Echo: Ecocontrasto

- Migliore visualizzazione dell'endocardio con opacizzazione di LV (nei pazienti con finestra ecocardiografica di scarsa qualità)



# Valutazione della perfusione



# Incremental value of contrast myocardial perfusion to detect intermediate versus severe coronary artery stenosis during stress-echocardiography

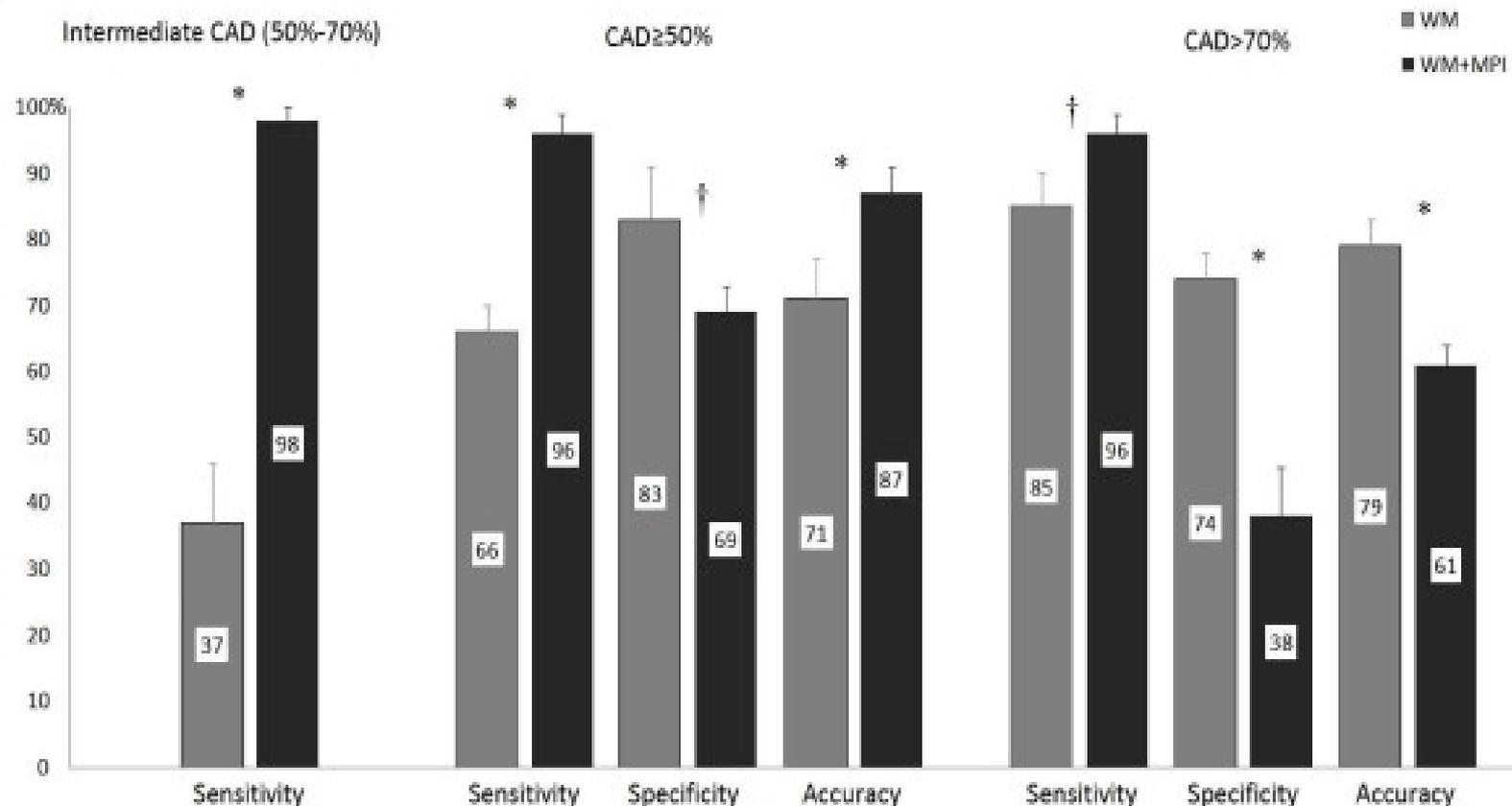
Nicola Gaibazzi<sup>1\*</sup> ✉, Fausto Rigo<sup>2\*</sup> ✉, Angelo Squeri<sup>1\*</sup> ✉, Fabrizio Ugo<sup>1\*</sup> ✉ and Claudio Reverberi<sup>1\*</sup> ✉

<sup>1</sup> Cardiology Division, Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria di Parma, Parma, Italy

<sup>2</sup> Cardiology Division, Umberto I° Hospital, Mestre-Venice, Italy

✉ author email   ✉ corresponding author email   \* Contributed equally

*Cardiovascular Ultrasound* 2010, **8**:16   doi:10.1186/1476-7120-8-16



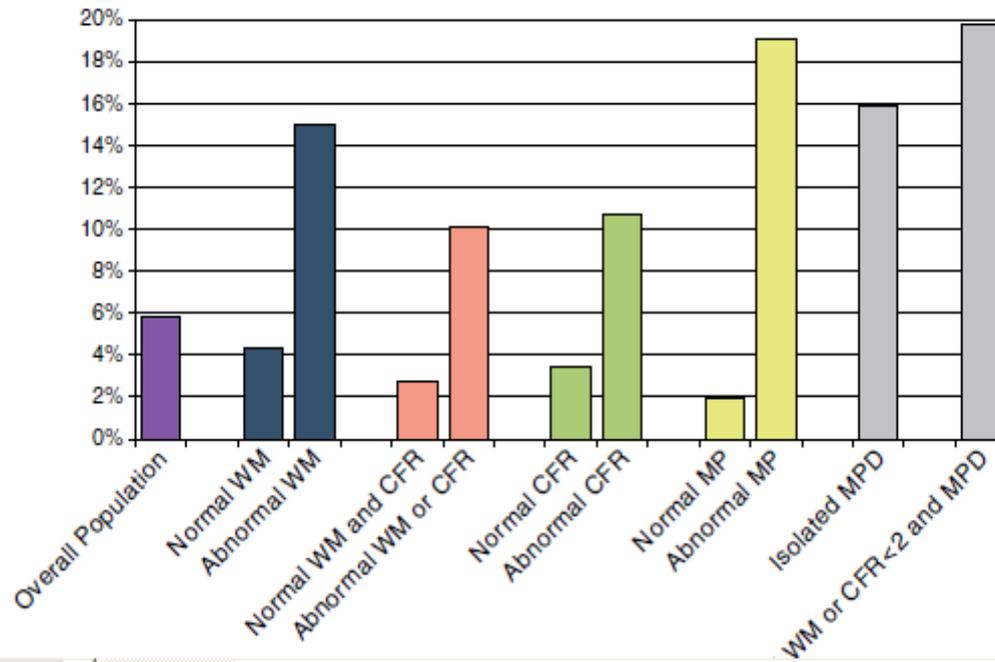
J Am Coll Cardiol. 2004 Dec 7;44(11):2185-91.

**Comparative accuracy of real-time myocardial contrast perfusion imaging and wall motion analysis during dobutamine stress echocardiography for the diagnosis of coronary artery disease.**

Elhendy A, O'Leary EL, Xie F, McGrain AC, Anderson JR, Porter TR.

Department of Internal Medicine, Section of Cardiology, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Nebraska, USA.

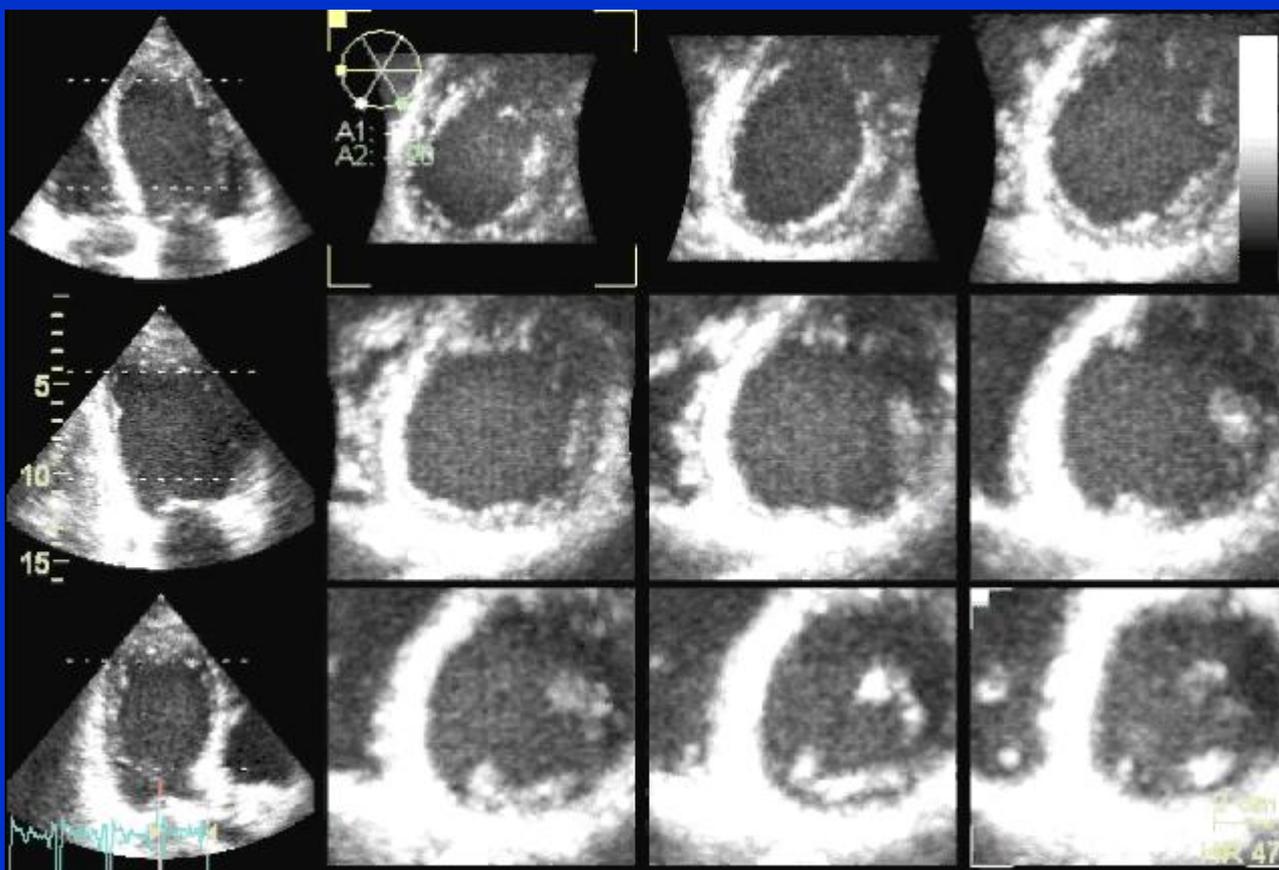
**Sensitivity of MCE** was higher than that of WMA at maximal stress (91% vs. 70%;  $p = 0.001$ ) and at intermediate stress (84% vs. 20%;  $p = 0.0001$ ). **Specificity** was lower for MCE compared with WMA (51% vs. 74%;  $p = 0.01$ ). Overall accuracy was higher for MCE than for WMA (81% vs. 71%;  $p = 0.01$ ). Sensitivity for detection of CAD based on abnormalities in  $\geq 2$  vascular regions was higher for MCE than for WMA (67% vs. 28%;  $p < 0.01$ ).



interobserver agreement : 80% per la perfusione

95% per le alterazioni della cinetica parietale

# Ecocardiografia tridimensionale



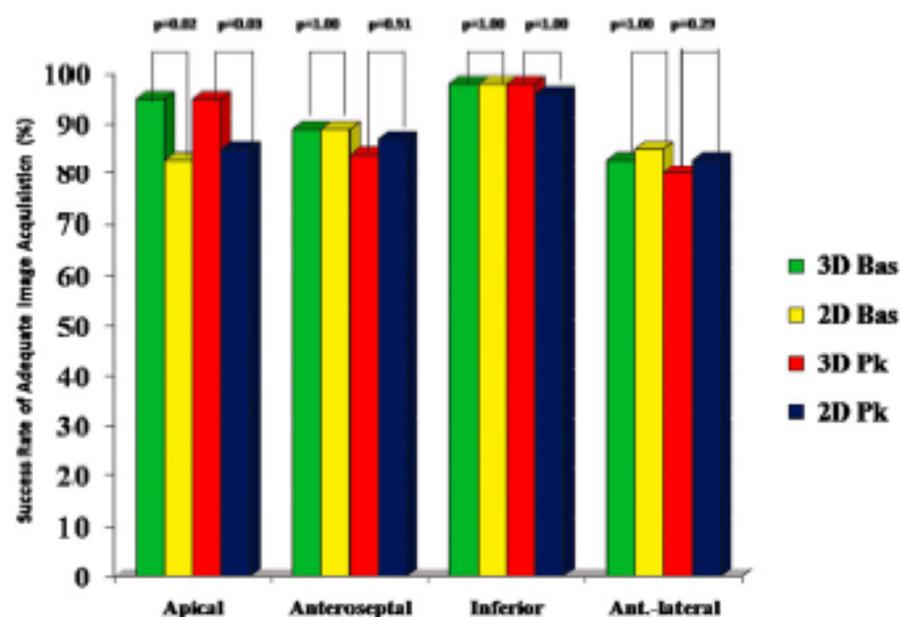
# High Volume-Rate Three-Dimensional Stress Echocardiography to Assess Inducible Myocardial Ischemia: A Feasibility Study

Luigi P. Badano, MD, Denisa Muraru, MD, Fausto Rigo, MD, Lorenzo Del Mestre, RS, Davide Ermacora, MD, Pasquale Gianfagna, MD, and Alessandro Proclemer, MD, *Udine and Mestre-Venice, Italy; Bucharest, Romania*

(J Am Soc Echocardiogr 2010;23:628-35.)

**Table 3** Sensitivity and specificity of 3DE and 2DE for the detection of coronary artery disease

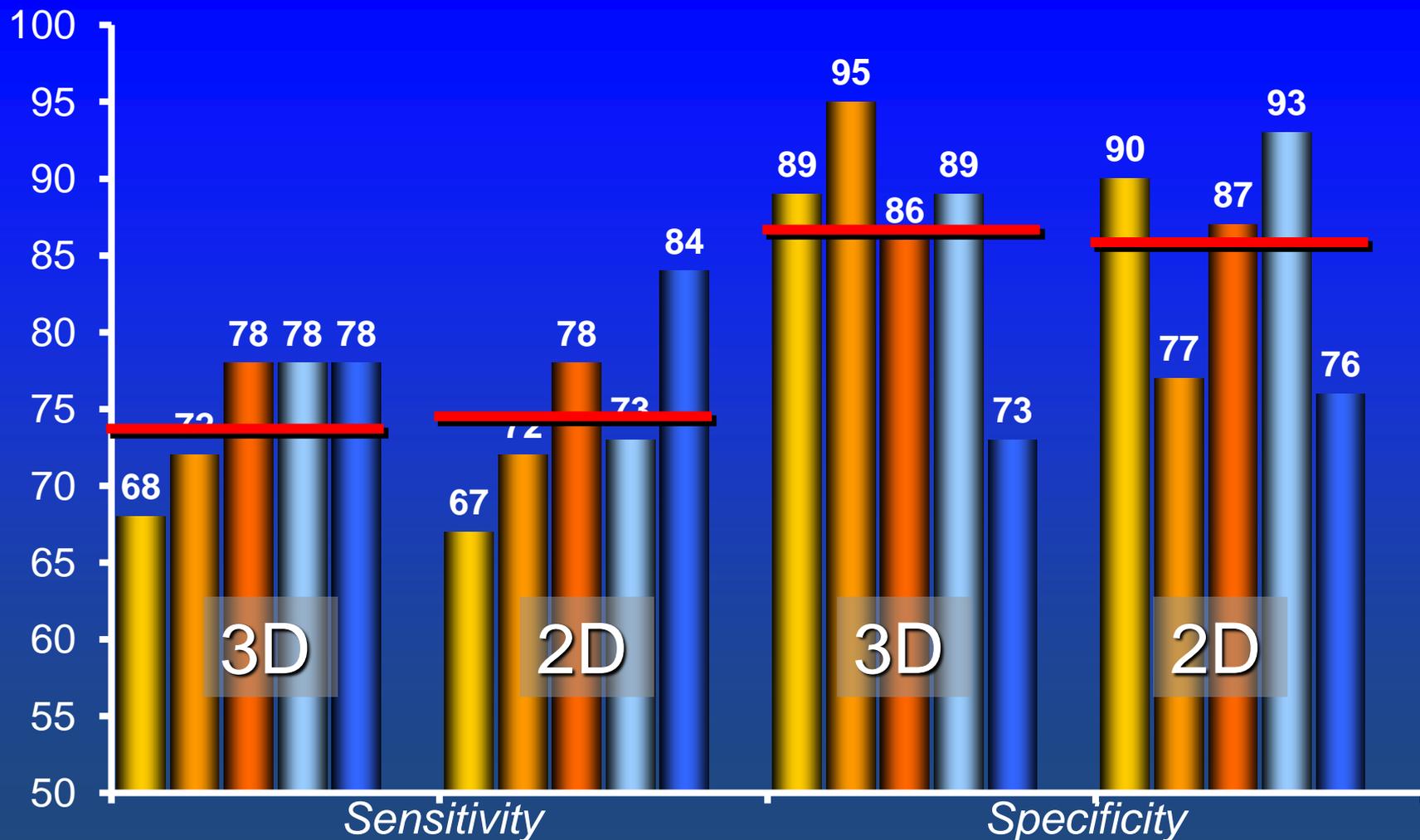
Coronary artery territory	Sensitivity (%)			Specificity (%)		
	3DE	2DE	P	3DE	2DE	P
All	80	78	NS	87	91	NS
Left anterior descending	87	78	.011	90	93	NS
Right	82	77	NS	85	88	NS
Left circumflex	65	63	NS	94	92	NS



**Figure 4** Success rate of adequate LV segment visualization at baseline (Bas) and during peak stress (Pk) using 3DE and 2DE in 4 left ventricular regions. The only significant difference could be detected in the apical region.

# Accuracy of Stress Echo

## 3D / 2D vs. Thallium-SPECT / Coronary AnGIO



From: Matsumara, Eur Heart J 2005; Eroglu, Eur Heart J 2006;  
Peteiro, JASE 2007; Aggeli Heart 2007; Yoshitani, JASE 2009

# Vantaggi dei test farmacologici

- -organizzativi (non necessitano di laboratorio dedicato con ergometro)
- -qualità delle immagini (nessuna interferenza del respiro né del movimento; possibilità di monitorare le immagini per l'intera durata dell'esame)
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# Lettoergometro

- Permette il monitoraggio continuo ecocardiografico
- Valutazione della cinetica durante e al picco dello sforzo (20% delle alterazioni della cinetica parietale regrediscono entro 1')



Valutazione dei volumi  
Valutazione della pressione sistolica polmonare (che diminuisce rapidamente dopo la cessazione dell'esercizio)

# Vantaggi dell'ecocardiografia da sforzo

- 1) Fisiologica correlazione dell'ischemia con l'esercizio e significato ai diversi carichi**
- 2) Possibilità di valutare meglio i sintomi lamentati dal paziente**
- 3) Eventuale comparsa di aritmie durante l'esercizio**
- 4) Semplicità di esecuzione, sicurezza**



# Stress Echocardiography Expert Consensus Statement—Executive Summary

European Association of Echocardiography (EAE) (a registered branch of the ESC)

Rosa Sicari<sup>1\*</sup>, Petros Nihoyannopoulos<sup>2</sup>, Arturo Evangelista<sup>3</sup>, Jaroslav Kasprzak<sup>4</sup>, Patrizio Lancellotti<sup>5</sup>, Don Poldermans<sup>6</sup>, Jens-Uwe Voigt<sup>7</sup>, and Jose Luis Zamorano<sup>8</sup> on behalf of the European Association of Echocardiography

<sup>1</sup>Institute of Clinical Physiology, Pisa, Italy; <sup>2</sup>Hammersmith Hospital, NIMH, Imperial College, London, UK; <sup>3</sup>Hospital Vall d'Hebron, Barcelona, Spain; <sup>4</sup>Department of Cardiology, Medical University of Lodz, Lodz, Poland; <sup>5</sup>Department of Cardiology, University Hospital Sart Tilman, Liège, Belgium; <sup>6</sup>Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands; <sup>7</sup>Catholic University, Leuven, Belgium; and <sup>8</sup>Instituto Cardiovascular, Hospital Clínico San Carlos, Madrid, Spain

## DIPIRIDAMOLO

Author, year	Patients	Complications
Multicentre registry		
Picano <i>et al.</i> , 1992	10 451	1 cardiac death, 1 asystole, 2 AMI, 1 pulmonary oedema, 1 sustained VT
Varga <i>et al.</i> , 2006	24 599	19 (1 death)
Total	35 050	25

AMI, acute myocardial infarction; VT, ventricular tachycardia.

## DOBUTAMINA e DIPIRIDAMOLO

	Dobutamine	Dipyridamole
% submaximal tests	10%	5%
Side effects	1/300 exams	1/1000
VT, VF	++	+
High grade AV block	+	++
Death	1/5000	1/10000

AV, arteriovenous; VF, ventricular fibrillation; VT, ventricular tachycardia.

**Ecocontrasto: 1:10000 reazione allergica o pericolosa  
10% effetti collaterali minori**

**Attrezzatura del laboratorio**  
**Esperienza dell'operatore**

**Caratteristiche del paziente**



**Table 4. Stress echo: which test for which patient.**

Pt characteristics	Exercise	Dipyridamole	Dobutamine
Inability to exercise	3	1	1
Contraindication to exercise	3	1	1
Positive EET in hypertensives, women, baseline ECG changes	1	2	2
Asthmatic patient	2	3	1
Under theophylline therapy	1	3	1
Severe hypertension	3	1	3
Well controlled hypertension	2	1	2
Relative hypotension	1	3	3
Ventricular ectopy	1	1	3
2nd–3rd degree atrioventricular block	1	3	2
Suboptimal acoustic window	3	1	2
Evaluation of anti-ischemic therapy efficacy	1	2	3
Unstable carotid disease	2	2	2
Permanent pacemaker		Pacemaker stress echo	

1: Especially indicated; 2: Relatively contraindicated; 3: Contraindicated.  
ECG: Electrocardiogram; EET: Exercise–electrocardiography test.

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2nd-3rd degree atrioventricular block	1	3	2
Suboptimal acoustic window	3	1	2
Evaluation of anti-ischemic therapy efficacy	1	2	3
Unstable carotid disease	2	2	2
Permanent pacemaker		Pacemaker stress echo	

1: Especially indicated; 2: Relatively contraindicated; 3: Contraindicated.  
ECG: Electrocardiogram; EET: Exercise-electrocardiography test.

**Table 4. Stress echo: which test for which patient.**

Pt characteristics	Exercise	Dipyridamole	Dobutamine
Inability to exercise	3	1	1
Contraindication to exercise	3	1	1
Positive EET in hypertensives, women, baseline ECG changes	1	2	2
Asthmatic patient	2	3	1
Under theophylline therapy	1	3	1
Severe hypertension	3	1	3
Well controlled hypertension	2	1	2
Relative hypotension	1	3	3
Ventricular ectopy	1	1	3
2nd-3rd degree atrioventricular block	1	3	2
Suboptimal acoustic window	3	1	2
Evaluation of anti-ischemic therapy efficacy	1	2	3
Unstable carotid disease	2	2	2
Permanent pacemaker		Pacemaker stress echo	

1: Especially indicated; 2: Relatively contraindicated; 3: Contraindicated.  
ECG: Electrocardiogram; EET: Exercise-electrocardiography test.

## Non-Invasive Diagnostic Testing for Coronary Artery Disease in the Hypertensive Patient: Potential Advantages of a Risk Estimation-Based Algorithm

Diana Chin<sup>1</sup>, Allegra Battistoni<sup>1</sup>, Giuliano Tocci<sup>2</sup>, Jasmine Passerini<sup>1</sup>, Gianfranco Parati<sup>3</sup> and Massimo Volpe<sup>1,2</sup>

**Table 1 | Comparison of non-invasive diagnostic tests for detection of coronary artery disease in hypertensive subjects**

	Sensitivity	Specificity	PPV	NPV	Cost	Biological impact	Indications	Not recommended
EET	+++	++	+++	++++	+	0	Pts at intermediate risk of CAD	In women, young pts, or unable to exercise, or with resting ECG abnormalities
Dipyridamole echocardiography	++++	++++	++++	++++	++	+	Pts at intermediate risk of CAD unable to exercise/ with positive EET (especially women and >75 aa)/with interfering abnormalities ECG (LVH, LBBB)	In pts with poor acoustic window, or with resting abnormal wall motion; or with contraindication to pharmacologic stressor agents
Dobutamine echocardiography	++++	++++	++++	++++	++	+		
Exercise echocardiography	++++	++++	++++	++++	++	0		
MPS	++++	++	+++	++++	++++	++++	Pts at intermediate risk of CAD unable to exercise/ with positive EET (especially women and >75 aa)/ with interfering abnormalities ECG (LVH, LBBB); asymptomatic pts at high risk of CAD or with a strong familiarity for CAD	In young and women; in pts with contraindication to pharmacologic stressor agents
CCT	++++	++++	++++	++++	+++	++++	Pts at intermediate risk of CAD with positive EET pts and low/intermediate risk unable to exercise/ with interfering abnormalities ECG (LVH, LBBB);	Women or young pts or with serum creatinine >1,5 mg/dl
CMR	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	++++	+	Pts at intermediate risk of CAD unable to exercise/ with positive EET/with interfering abnormalities ECG (LVH, LBBB)	In claustrophobic pts, or with ferromagnetic objects, or with creatinine clearance <30 ml/min; in pts with contraindication to pharmacologic stressor

<b>Paziente</b>	<b>esercizio</b>	<b>dipiridamolo</b>	<b>dobutamina</b>
Impossibilità ad eseguire esercizio	no	si	si
Controindicazione esercizio	no	si	si
Scarsa qualità della finestra acust	no	si	si
Asma	possibile	no	si
Assunzione di teofillinici	si	no	si
Blocco AV avanzato	si	no	possibile
Ipotensione	si	no	no
Aritmie ventricolari	si	si	no
Valutazione efficacia terapia	si	possibile	no
Valutazione vitalità			si

**Ipertensione**

- 2200 ipertesi, sottoposti ad eco dipiridamolo o dobutamina
- **fattibilità**
- **Dobutamina**
- ipertesi 88,8%
- normotesi 93,4%
- **Dipiridamolo**
- ipertesi 97%
- normotesi 97,5%
- Complicanze più frequenti con dobutamina negli ipertesi.

• Cortigiani et Al, J Hypertension 2002

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DOI: 10.1111/j.1540-8175.2011.01623.x

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Echocardiography

## Intracranial Hemorrhage as a Complication of Dobutamine Stress Echocardiography: Case Report and Review of the Literature

Sachin P. Shah, M.D. and G. Muqtada Chaudhry, M.D.

[Display Settings:](#)  Abstract

[Send to:](#)

[BMJ Case Rep.](#) 2014 Mar 18;2014. pii: bcr2013201891. doi: 10.1136/bcr-2013-201891.

### **Intraparenchymal haemorrhage and uncal herniation resulting from dobutamine stress echocardiography.**

[Bennin CL](#)<sup>1</sup>, [Ramoutar V](#), [Velarde G](#).

**Author information**



# Ipertensione arteriosa

- 59 pazienti ipertesi
- 59 normotesi
- Sottoposti a coronarografia per dolore toracico
- Sottoposti ad ecocardiogramma da sforzo in assenza di terapia e, negli ipertesi, dopo normalizzazione dei valori di P.A. con nifedipina.
- CAD significativa (stenosi >50% in 22 ipertesi e 41 normotesi)
- Maltagliati et al, Hypertension, 2000

## ipertesi

WO

Nif

normotesi

Echo ECG

Echo ECG

Echo ECG

• Sensibilità	95%*	68%	91%*	45%	87%*	51%
• Specificità	94%*	70%	100%	81%	72%	72%
• Acc diagn	94%*	69%*	96%*	67%	83%*	57%

• Maltagliati et Al, Hypertension, 2000

# CASO CLINICO n° 1

- P.G., maschio, anni 64
- ipertensione nota da anni
- comparsa di precordialgie da sforzo tipiche per angor da 2 anni

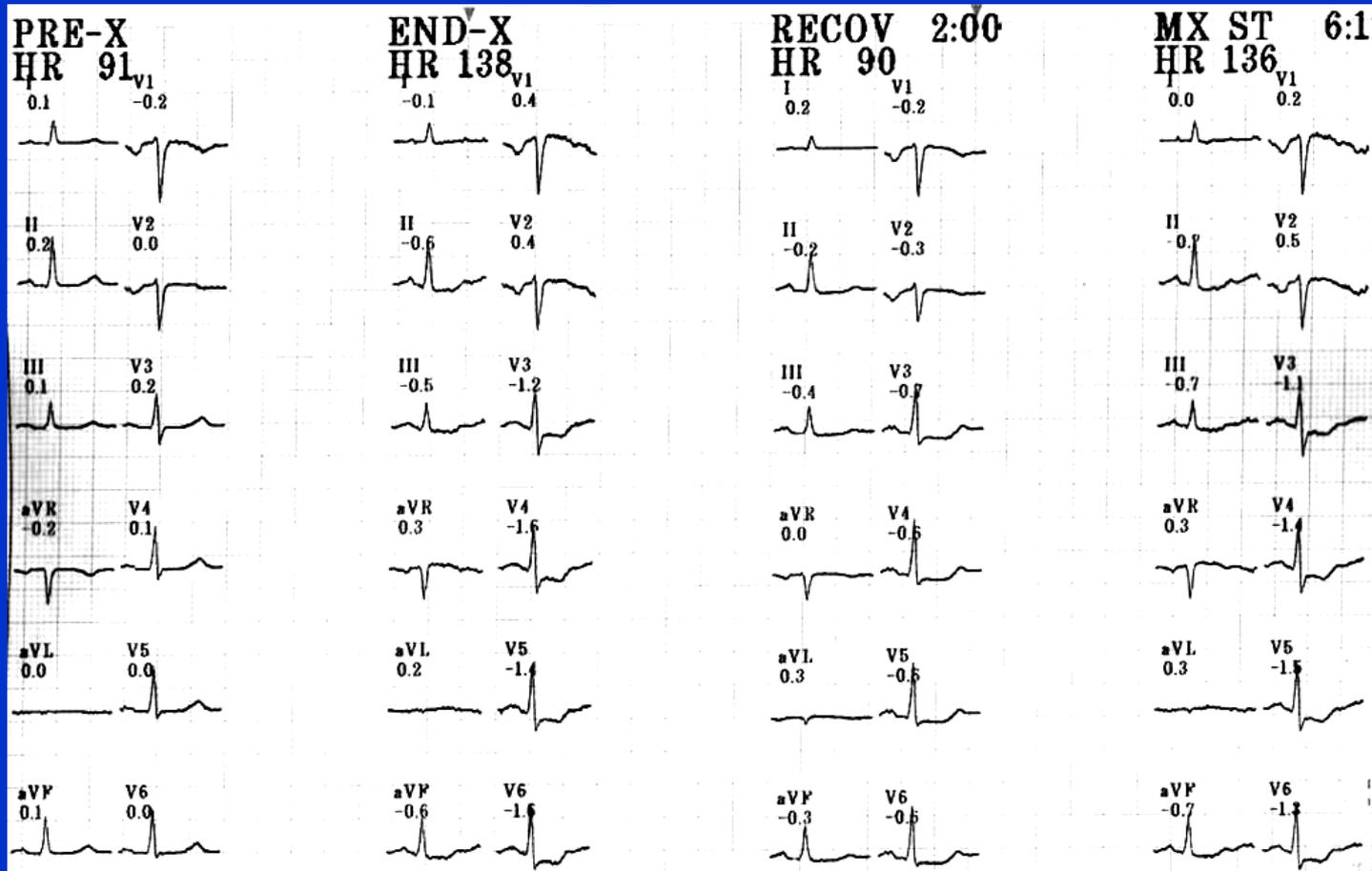
# CASO 1.

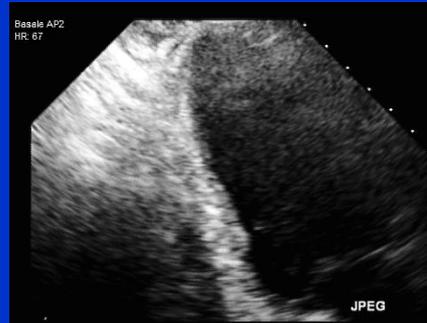
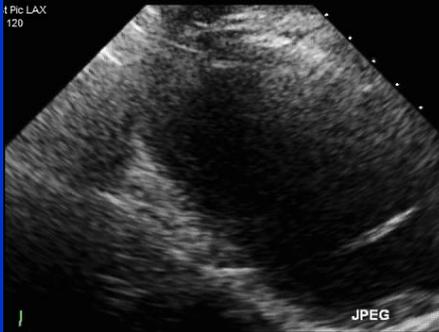
## PROVA DA SFORZO

- Carico di lavoro 175 Watts
- frequenza cardiaca massima 168 bt/' (100%)
  - pressione al picco 200/100 mm Hg
    - doppio prodotto 36300
  - comparsa di angor al picco

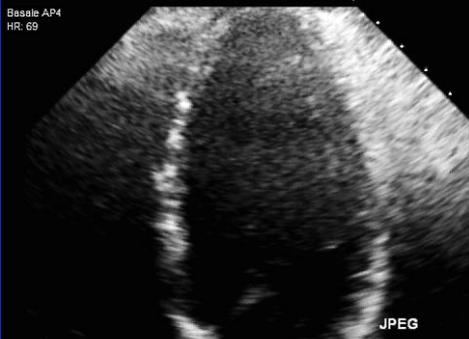
# CASO 1.

## ECG DA SFORZO

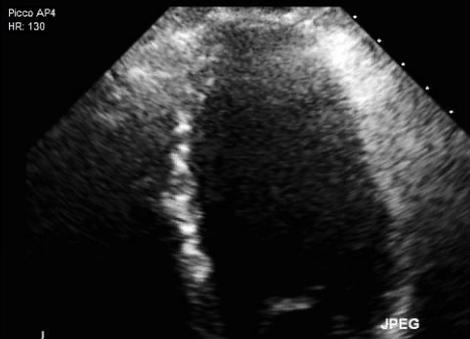




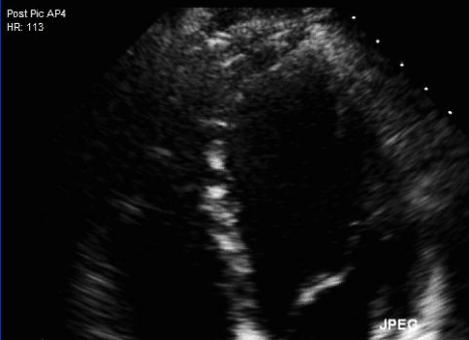
Basale AP4  
HR: 69



Picco AP4  
HR: 130



Post Pic AP4  
HR: 113



Recupero AP4  
HR: 103



Basale AP3  
HR: 67



Picco AP3  
HR: 132



Post Pic AP3  
HR: 113



Recupero AP3  
HR: 102

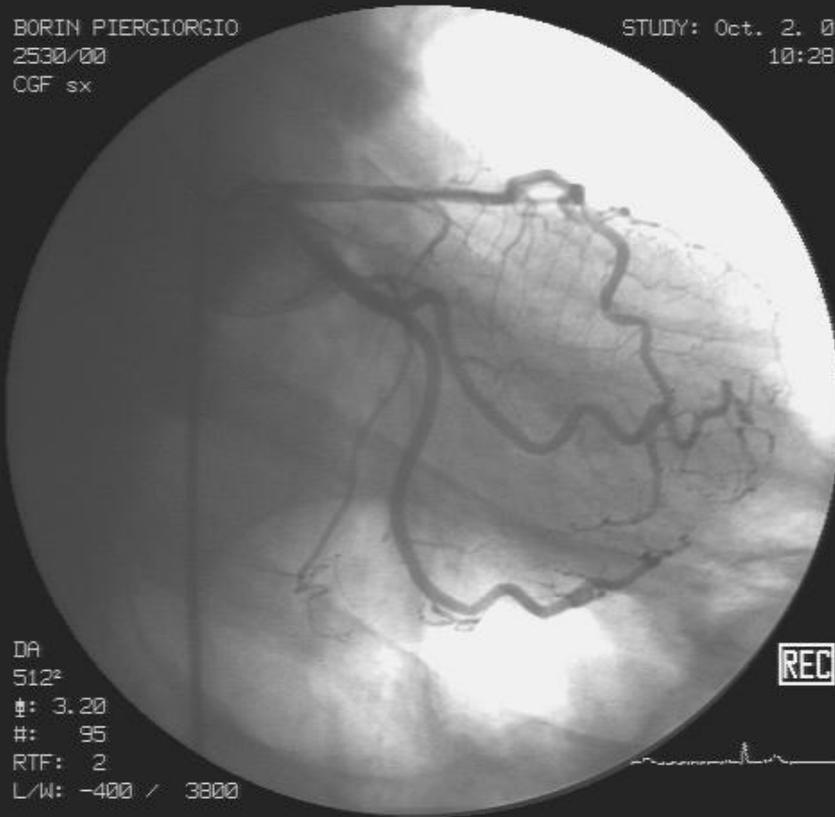


# CASO 1.

## ANGIOGRAFIA CORONARICA

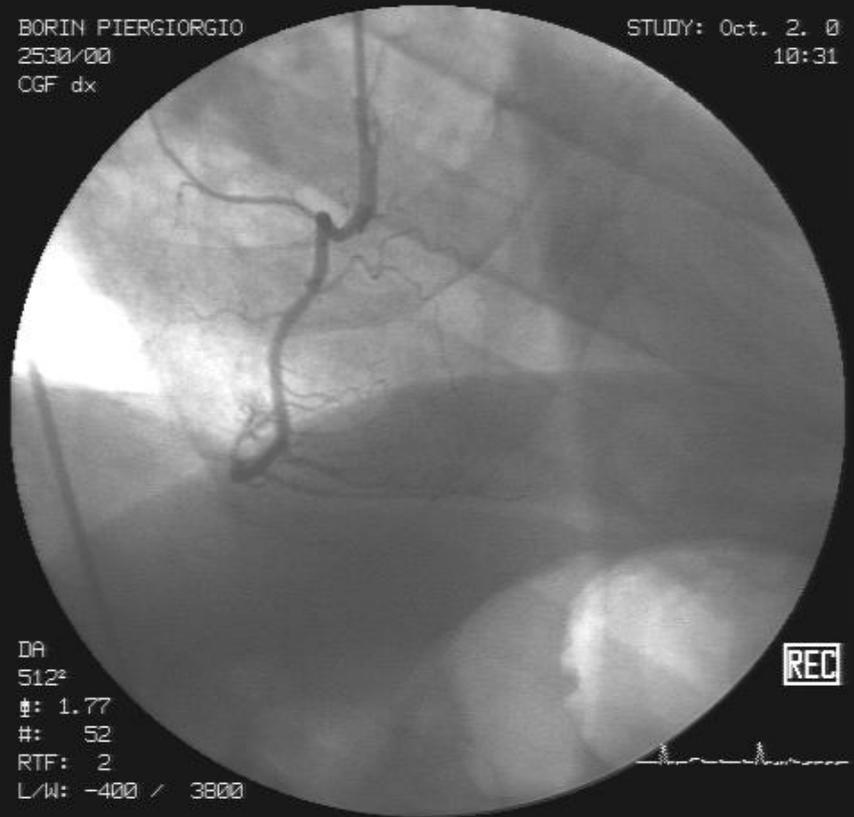
BORIN PIERGIORGIO  
2530/00  
CGF sx

STUDY: Oct. 2. 0  
10:28



BORIN PIERGIORGIO  
2530/00  
CGF dx

STUDY: Oct. 2. 0  
10:31



# CASO CLINICO n° 2

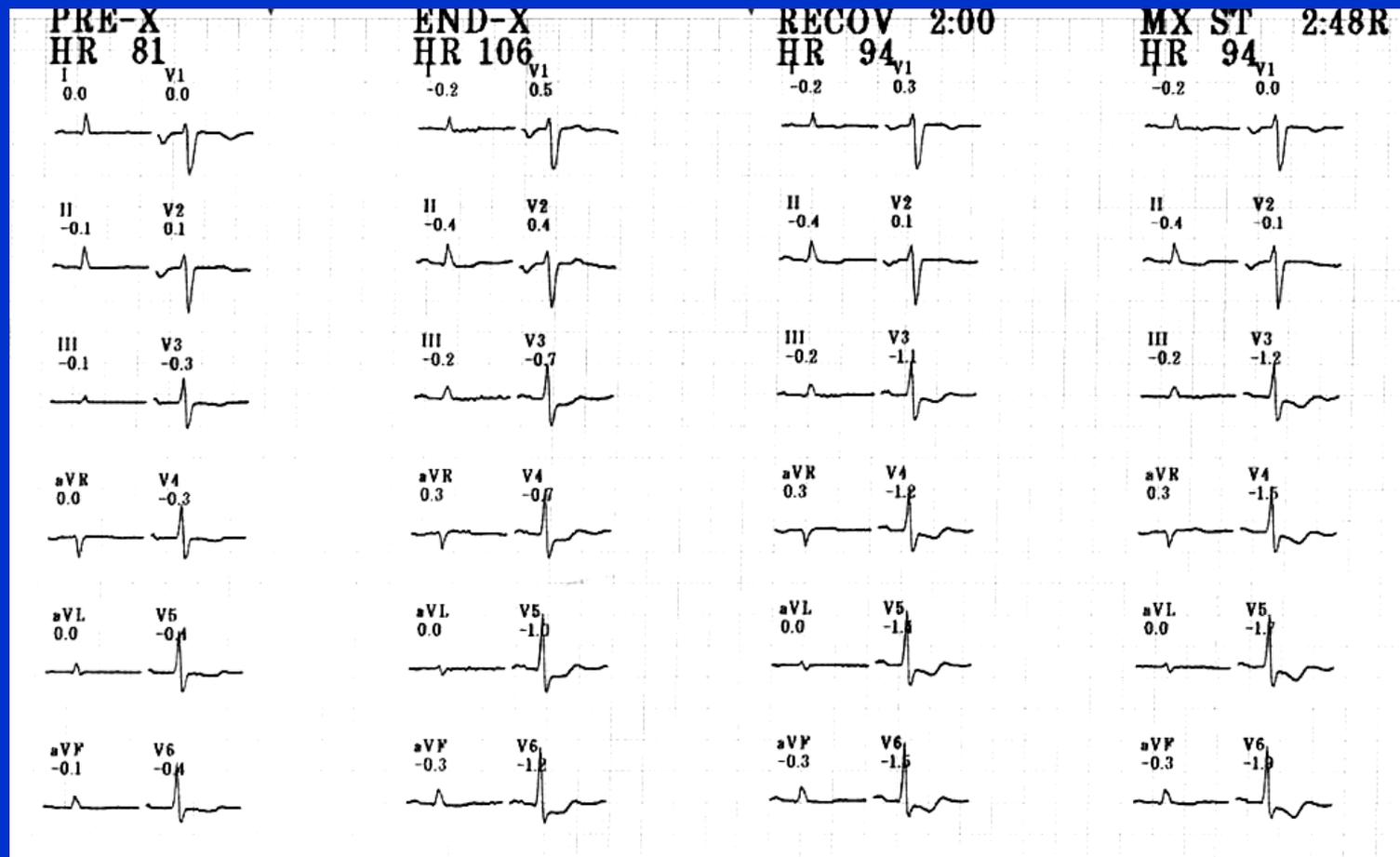
- L.M.: maschio, anni 62
- svolge regolare attività sportiva
- Lieve ipertensione arteriosa
- da 20 gg “bruciore”  
retrosternale sotto sforzo

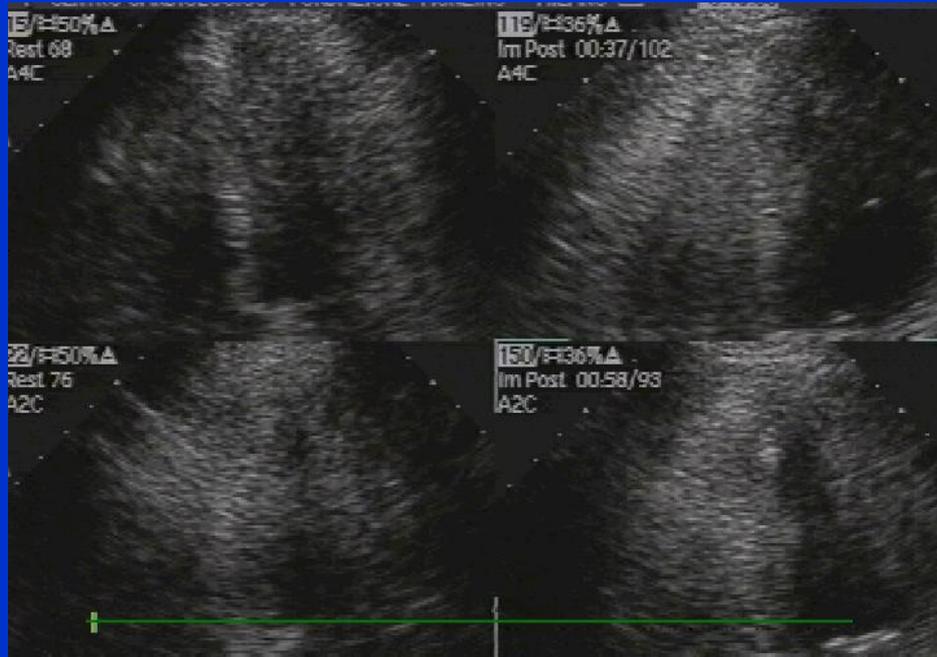
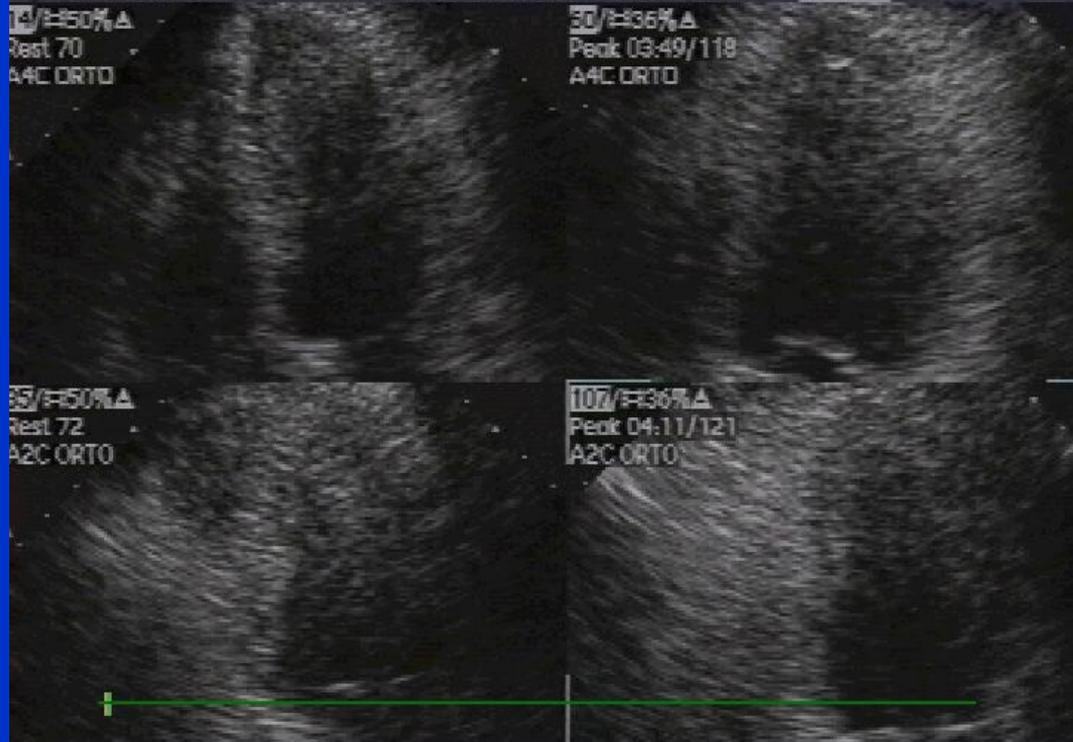
# PROVA DA SFORZO

- Carico di lavoro 75 watts
- Frequenza cardiaca massima 124 bt/'  
(72%)
- pressione al picco 210/110
  - doppio prodotto 26040
- comparsa di angor al picco

# CASO 2.

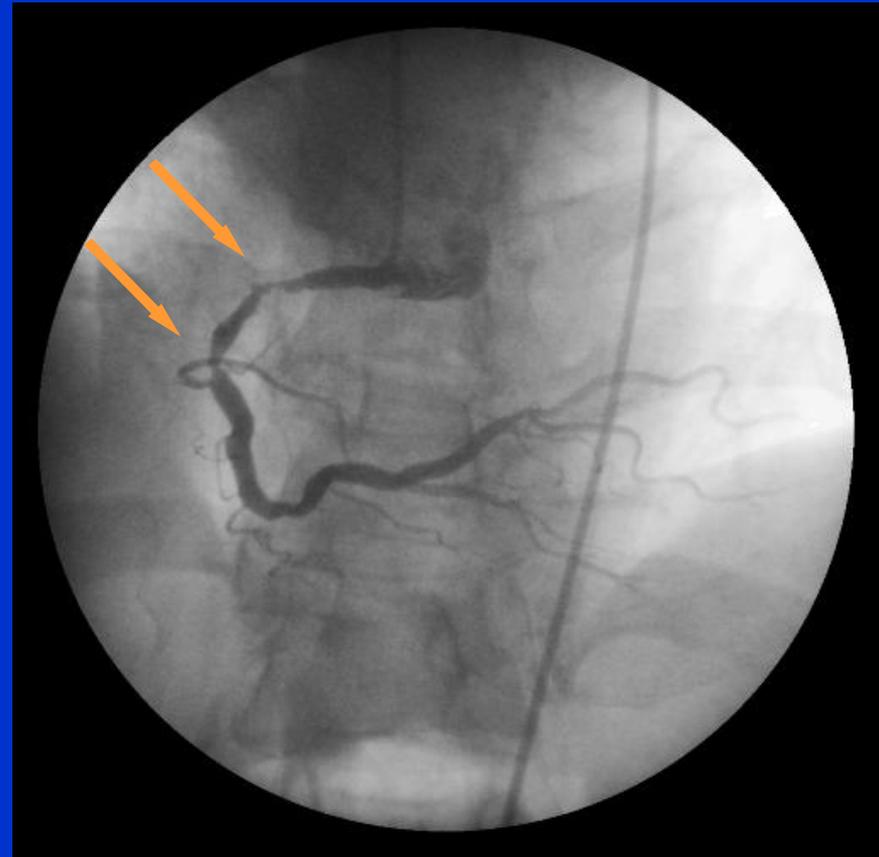
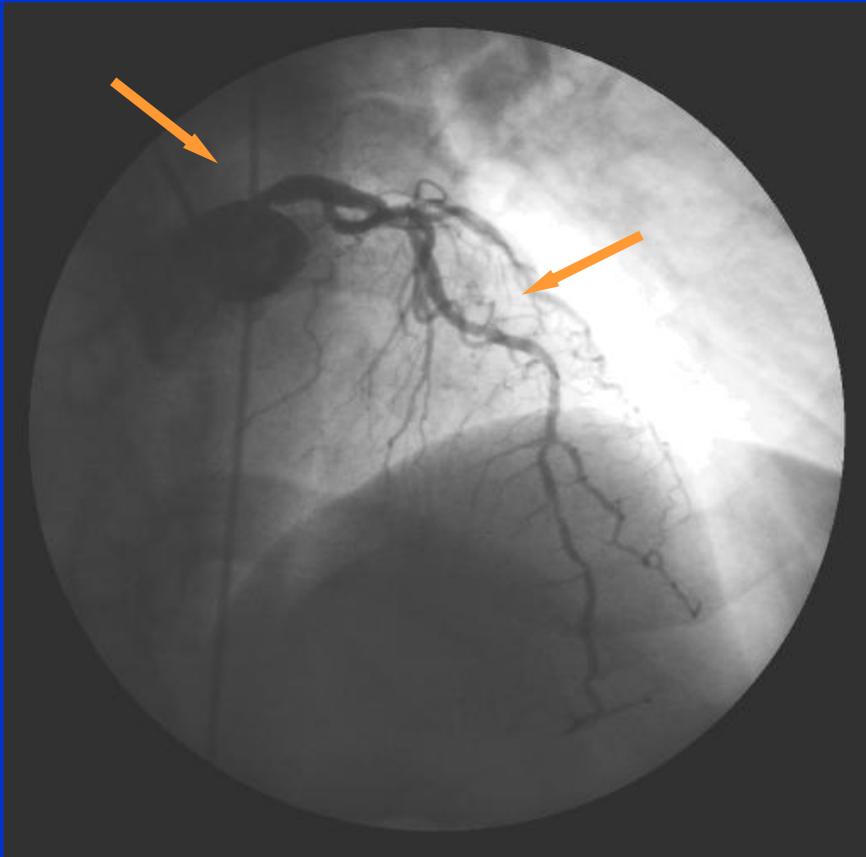
## ECG DA SFORZO





# CASO 2

## ANGIOGRAFIA CORONARICA



# Ipertensione arteriosa: falsi positivi

- 548 pts sottoposti a coronarografia ed eco da sforzo
- 132 (24%) risposta ipertensiva allo sforzo
- (PA sist>220 mm Hg, incremento della P.A diastolica >10 mm Hg), di essi
- 108 avevano ECHO stress positivo; il **22% non aveva stenosi coronarica significativa.**

• Pellikka et Al, J Am Coll Cardiol. 2002

•

## **An Exaggerated Blood Pressure Response to Treadmill Exercise does not Increase the Likelihood that Exercise Echocardiograms are Abnormal in Men or Women.**

Jurrens TL, From AM, Kane GC, Mulvaugh SL, Pellikka PA, McCully RB.

Division of Cardiovascular Diseases, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota.

**RESULTS:** Among the 7,015 patients (mean age,  $61 \pm 13$  years), 3,992 were men (57%). The likelihood of patients' having abnormal exercise echocardiographic results was similar at all levels of exercise blood pressure, except in men who had low peak systolic blood pressures ( $<120$  mm Hg); they had the highest rate of abnormal exercise echocardiographic findings. Of the 3,225 patients without histories of hypertension or coronary artery disease, 3,098 had peak systolic blood pressures of 120 to 219 mm Hg (a "normal" blood pressure response), and 59 had peak systolic blood pressures  $\geq 220$  mm Hg (an exaggerated blood pressure response). These patients with exaggerated blood pressure responses were just as likely to have normal exercise echocardiographic results as those who had normal blood pressure responses (85% vs 83%,  $P > .99$ ). A subgroup of 508 patients underwent coronary angiography. The rate of false-positive findings was similar for patients who had exaggerated blood pressure responses and those who had normal blood pressure responses. The false-positive rate tended to be lower in patients who had low blood pressure responses.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Patients who have exaggerated blood pressure responses to exercise are not more likely to have abnormal exercise echocardiographic findings than those with normal blood pressure responses. The majority of patients who have echocardiographic abnormalities and subsequently undergo coronary angiography have substantial ( $\geq 50\%$  stenosis) coronary artery disease.

**Attrezzatura del laboratorio**  
**Esperienza dell'operatore**  
**Caratteristiche del paziente**

**Nel nostro laboratorio:**

**1700 esami/anno**  
**> 95% test con esercizio**

**Impossibilità all'esercizio**  
**Controindicazione esercizio**  
**(es aneurisma aortico)**  
**Scarsa qualità della finestra**  
**acustica**



**Prognostic Implication of Appropriateness Criteria for Pharmacologic Stress  
Echocardiography Performed in an Outpatient Clinic**  
Lauro Cortigiani, Riccardo Bigi, Francesco Bovenzi, Sabrina Molinaro, Eugenio Picano and  
Rosa Sicari

*Circ Cardiovasc Imaging.* 2012;5:298-305; originally published online March 30, 2012;

## Indicazioni appropriate

<b>Indication 116</b>
Evaluation of ischemic equivalent (nonacute) in patients with intermediate pre-test probability of CAD who have an interpretable ECG and who are able to exercise
<b>Indication 118</b>
Evaluation of ischemic equivalent (nonacute) in patients with high pre-test probability of CAD regardless of ECG interpretability and ability to exercise
<b>Indication 169</b>
Evaluation of ischemic equivalent in patients with prior PCI or CABG
<b>Indication 117</b>
Evaluation of ischemic equivalent (nonacute) in patients with intermediate pre-test probability of CAD who have an uninterpretable ECG or unable to exercise
<b>Indication 115</b>
Evaluation of ischemic equivalent (nonacute) in patients with low pre-test probability of CAD who have an uninterpretable ECG or unable to exercise
<b>Indication 119</b>
Evaluation of acute chest pain in patients with no ECG ischemic changes or with LBBB or electrically paced ventricular rhythm changes who have low-risk TIMI score and negative troponin levels
<b>Other indications</b>

## Indicazioni inappropriate

<b>Indication 114</b>
Evaluation of ischemic equivalent (nonacute) in patients with low pre-test probability of CAD who have an interpretable ECG and able to exercise
<b>Indication 173</b>
Risk assessment in asymptomatic patients < 2 years after PCI
<b>Indication 124</b>
Detection of CAD and risk assessment in asymptomatic (without ischemic equivalent) general patient populations with low global CAD risk
<b>Indication 144</b>
Evaluation of patients with intermediate to high global CAD risk having a normal prior stress imaging study who are asymptomatic or with stable symptoms and who underwent last stress imaging study <2 years ago
<b>Indication 156</b>
Risk assessment before non cardiac intermediate-risk surgery in patients with no clinical risk factors
<b>Indication 171</b>
Risk assessment in asymptomatic patients < 5 years after CABG
<b>Indication 125</b>
Detection of CAD and risk assessment in asymptomatic (without ischemic equivalent) general patient populations with intermediate global CAD risk who have an interpretable ECG
<b>Indication 146</b>
Evaluation of patients with known CAD on coronary angiography or prior abnormal stress imaging study who are asymptomatic or with stable symptoms and who underwent last stress imaging study <2 years ago

**Prognostic Implication of Appropriateness Criteria for Pharmacologic Stress Echocardiography Performed in an Outpatient Clinic**  
Lauro Cortigiani, Riccardo Bigi, Francesco Bovenzi, Sabrina Molinaro, Eugenio Picano and Rosa Sicari

*Circ Cardiovasc Imaging.* 2012;5:298-305; originally published online March 30, 2012;

**Su 1552 pazienti ambulatoriali (2001-2007)**  
**63% indicazione appropriata**  
**9% indicazione incerta**  
**27% inappropriata**

CLINICAL INVESTIGATIONS

STRESS ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY: APPROPRIATE USE

Comparison of the 2008 and 2011 Appropriate Use Criteria for Stress Echocardiography

R. Sacha Bhatia, MD, MBA, Vishesh Kumar, MD, Michael H. Picard, MD, and Rory B. Weiner, MD, *Boston, Massachusetts*

**146 pazienti**

**69% indicazione appropriata**

**22% inappropriata**

JACC: CARDIOVASCULAR IMAGING  
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ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Appropriate Use Criteria for Stress Echocardiography

Impact of Updated Criteria on Appropriateness Ratings, Correlation With Pre-Authorization Guidelines, and Effect of Temporal Trends and an Educational Initiative on Utilization

Howard J. Willens, MD,\*† Katarina Nelson, MD,\* Robert C. Hendel, MD\*  
*Miami, Florida*

**208 pazienti nel 2008**

**1/3 indicazione inappropriata**

**209 pazienti del 2011**

**1/3 indicazione inappropriata**

Fig. 1: Diagnostic triage of patients with suspected coronary artery disease.

