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Regional Medical Imaging Adopts HeartFlow Analysis

Incorporating a HeartFlow FFR_{CT} analysis can help more accurately determine if a person with suspected coronary artery disease (CAD) should be treated for heart disease.

Flint, Mich. — Regional Medical Imaging (RMI) now offers a proven, non-invasive diagnostic option for people with suspected heart disease. Using CT images combined with CT-derived fractional flow reserve (FFR_{CT}) HeartFlow is a noninvasive clinical pathway that helps diagnose CAD. Trained analysts and AI algorithms create an anatomical model of a person’s heart that helps physicians visualize blood flow and detect stenosis, or blood flow obstructing plaque.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for adults in the United States, and CAD is the most common type of heart disease, affecting nearly half the adult population. CAD develops when the arteries leading to the heart narrow or become blocked, which may lead to a reduction in blood flow to the heart. This can cause chest pain, heart attacks and death. Identifying exactly where and how an artery is blocked or clogged can help improve a person’s treatment plan -- including whether or not an intervention is needed.

Despite CAD being the most common form of heart disease, studies have shown there is a need to improve how and when CAD is evaluated and diagnosed. Many of the non-invasive tests available today offer a low accuracy rate in detecting CAD. About 4 million diagnostic tests are conducted on patients with chest pain suspected of having CAD each year in the U.S. -- many of which are unnecessary.

“Historically, we have been faced with either using tests that were far less accurate or putting a patient through an invasive procedure just to determine whether they would need another invasive procedure to restore blood flow,” said Dr. Randy Hicks, President & CEO at RMI. “The HeartFlow FFR_{CT} Analysis completely changes this paradigm, providing essential information that can help us determine the right approach for a patient through a convenient, non-invasive platform.”

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HeartFlow at RMI

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Recognized by professional guidelines; backed by data

The HeartFlow FFR_{CT} Analysis offers the highest diagnostic accuracy available from a noninvasive test. Additionally, in clinical trials, using the HeartFlow FFR_{CT} Analysis helped identify which patients do and do not need invasive treatment.⁴ The use of the HeartFlow FFR_{CT} Analysis also reduced the cost of care by 26 percent compared to usual care.⁵

Professional guidelines, such as the ACC/AHA chest pain guidelines, recognize the combination of CCTA with selective FFR_{CT} as a front-line pathway that helps diagnose CAD. This pathway was recently shown to be the superior diagnostic pathway in the PRECISE trial for suspected CAD compared to Traditional Testing.*

The CCTA + HeartFlow FFR_{CT} Pathway:

1. **allows for more accurate non-invasive diagnosis**, significantly lowering the rates of false negatives and false positives compared to Traditional Testing in patients with coronary artery disease.
2. **reduces unnecessary tests**, providing a better patient experience, with a 4x reduction in unnecessary invasive catheterization and necessitating fewer initial diagnostic tests overall.
3. **provides confidence in treating the right patients** - 75% more likely to identify patients in need of intervention.

HeartFlow FFR_{CT} Analysis on our Community

“The HeartFlow FFR_{CT} Analysis will help us develop the most appropriate treatment plan for a patient with coronary artery disease without the need for unnecessary and stressful procedures,” says Dr. Hicks. “This is game-changing technology that will be beneficial for both our patients and the organization.”

About Regional Medical Imaging

Regional Medical Imaging (RMI) is Michigan’s largest outpatient imaging organization with two locations in Flint, and locations in Fenton, Grand Blanc, Davison, Lapeer, Novi, Petoskey, Royal Oak and Southgate. Founded in 1985, RMI is committed to personal attention and respect for patients in a convenient, clean, comfortable setting. The motto “Our family taking care of your family” is the core philosophy of RMI. The company, nationally recognized for excellence, strives to lead and innovate in the field of diagnostic and interventional radiology. To learn more about this unique company visit www.rmipc.net.

**Traditional Testing means functional stress testing /direct to ICA*

1 <https://www.cdc.gov/heartdisease/facts.htm>

2 Gulati et al., Circ 2021.

3 Driessen, et al. J Am Coll Cardiol 2019.

4 Douglas, et al., Euro Heart J 2015.

5 Douglas, et al., J Am Coll Cardiol 2016.