

THE ROLE OF ^{99m}Tc-SESTAMIBI IN THE EVALUATION OF MYOCARDIAL VIABILITY.

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Technetium-99m-sestamibi is being used with increasing frequency in nuclear cardiology to diagnose the presence or absence of coronary artery disease. A separate additional clinical question, in the group of patients who have coronary artery disease, con-

cerns whether or not there is viable myocardium still at risk for infarction. The identification of such myocardial regions frequently results in additional efforts to revascularize these regions to prevent infarction and relieve symptoms.

This work by Rigo, et al. reviews the potential use of ^{99m}Tc-sestamibi to determine myocardial viability. The authors start by defining the clinical problem and discussing the differential diagnosis as well as the previous work done in this area using other radiopharmaceuticals such as ²⁰¹Tl and ¹⁸F-fluorodeoxyglucose. They then discuss the mechanism of ^{99m}Tc-

sestamibi uptake by the myocardium with pertinent references from the literature. Figures of gated and ungated tomograms are presented to illustrate the importance of regional myocardial function as well as perfusion in assessment of viability.

Although the authors conclude that the value of ^{99m}Tc-sestamibi has not yet been fully elucidated, they provide the nuclear medicine technologist with a comprehensive understanding of the current state of the art.

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