



Tomografía computarizada en la enfermedad coronaria

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A NEW PERSPECTIVE FOR THE EVALUATION OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

This first edition of *Tomografía computarizada en la enfermedad coronaria* (Computerized tomography in coronary disease), by Patricia Carrascosa, Mario J. García, and Carlos Capuñay, published by Editorial Akadia, basically offers us a new approach, an alternative to the simple calculation of probabilities representing the current practice –out of date, in my opinion– aiming at diagnosing or discarding atherosclerotic disease on the basis of the medical record, the risk factors, and the function test results. The authors of this book are pioneers in the development of the coronary CT scan technique, from its technical concept to its practical implementation. For the first time, a non-invasive method helps us diagnose one of the most prevalent causes of morbidity and mortality in modern society, with a negative predictive value that is above invasive catheterization. This book, one of the first about this new technique published in Spanish America, includes contributions made by experts in clinical cardiology, radiology, biostatistics, and cardiovascular pathology. Actually, its authors have proven a method that defines a new paradigm in clinical practice. Its topics include both the fundamental concepts of implementation and interpreta-

tion, and the selection of patients and management according to the results. The authors present a progressive yet cautious and disciplined view, taking into account the advantages and limitations of CT compared to catheterization and stress tests. The reader will form his own opinion on how to use these methods in a suitable way according to the individual medical condition of each patient.

This work will be of interest for both the general practitioner and the cardiac imaging specialist, as well as for the interventional cardiologist. Today, multislice computed tomography definitely represents a very important technique, with the potential of setting a new paradigm to diagnose with certainty, not with probability. Doctors Patricia Carrascosa, Mario J. García, and Carlos Capuñay deserve our major respect for the publication of this book, which is size-friendly and well descriptive of all the anatomical and physiological aspects we must learn about computerized tomography in coronary diseases. I highly recommend it.

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