



The Medical **Bulletin**

Image Corner

Pearls on Calcium Scores and Coronary CTAs

Coronary CT is an evolving anatomical imaging modality that includes coronary calcium scoring and coronary computed tomography angiogram (CTA). Coronary calcium scoring should only be used to risk-stratify asymptomatic patients if the results may influence the initiation of primary prevention medications. Coronary CTA is simply a gated arterial phase contrast CT study that allows us to visualize the coronary arteries. Added benefits to coronary CT Detect atherosclerotic disease that wouldn't get picked up on with either stress test or even a catheterization because it's also not encroaching on the lumen. Coronary CTA can identify plaque which might be undetected by coronary angiogram. Coronary CTAs have a high negative predictive value and therefore, a CCTA without plaque burden can give reassurance that a patient's symptoms are not from a cardiac source.

Dr. Sangram S. Biradar
MD, FICP, FACP, FRCP