Reverse Redistribution Pattern of Thallium-201 Stress Test in Subjects with Normal Coronary Angiograms

TO THE EDITOR: We have read with interest the article "Reverse Redistribution Phenomenon in Thallium-201 Stress Test: Angiographic Correlation and Clinical Significance" (*1*). In our experience, this type of pattern is commonly seen in patients free from coronary artery disease. With a color scintillation method for the interpretation of thallium-201 myocardial scintigraphy we have found a paradoxical pattern in 48% of young subjects (mean 21.8 yr) free from heart disease and in 58% of 21 patients (mean 52.4 yr) with severe aortic valve disease and normal coronary angiograms (*2*). Therefore, in our experience, the specificity of this pattern for the diagnosis of abnormal coronary arteries is very low (45.2%). Thus, although we are unable to propose a mechanism for the association of this pattern with normal coronary arteries, we agree that reverse redistribution phenomenon is not indicative of coronary artery disease.

References

1. Silberstein EB, DeVries DF: Reverse redistribution phenomenon in thallium-201 stress tests: Angiographic correlation and clinical significance. *J Nucl Med* 26:707–710, 1985
2. Candell J, Ortega D, Castell J, et al: Gammagrafía miocárdica de esfuerzo y redistribución con talio-201 en pacientes con valvulopatía aórtica severa y coronarias angiográficamente sanas. *Rev Esp Cardiol* 38:332–337, 1985

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REPLY: I cannot comment on the very high percentage of abnormality found in young normals and in patients with aortic valve disease since we did not target those populations. The mechanisms proposed in the above-referenced article (*1*) may help to explain their findings also, provided that the technique they employed is comparable to ours.

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Correction: Technetium-99m Low Density Lipoprotein Radiolabeling Procedure

TO THE EDITOR: In the article "Technetium-99m Low Density Lipoproteins: Preparation and Biodistribution," *J Nucl Med* 26:1056–1062, 1985, an error occurred in the next to last sentence of the Methods paragraph entitled, "Radiolabeling Procedure." The sentence beginning, "The conditions were similar to those for ^{99}Tc labeling, except that the dithionite (1 mg) . . ." should have read, "dithionite (10 mg)." The authors apologize to any colleagues who may have been inconvenienced by this error.

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