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**Landmark Study Shows EBT Coronary Calcium Score Is  
Most Accurate Test For Heart Attack Risk**

*Imaging society says major study clearly indicates EBT Coronary Calcium Score  
as the best test for identifying who is and is not at risk for heart attacks*

**DENVER** – The electron beam tomography (EBT) Coronary Calcium Score can predict coronary disease, heart attacks and coronary death better than standard risk factors—such as cholesterol, blood pressure and smoking. That’s according to the St. Francis Heart Study<sup>1</sup> to be published in the July issue of the Journal of the American College of Cardiology.

“This study proves yet again that the EBT Coronary Calcium Score is an extremely powerful predictor of heart attacks, and it is clearly the best single method to identify which individuals should be targeted for aggressive risk factor modification,” said Dr. James Ehrlich, president of the Society for Responsible Preventive Imaging (SRPI). “The first sign of heart disease for the majority of Americans today is a heart attack or sudden death. It’s time for managed care to take responsibility for its profound contribution to this dismal statistic through its emphasis on only covering symptoms of late disease. Electron beam tomography should be an integral part of cardiac risk assessment in clinical practice.”

The society emphasized that the EBT test can routinely be used to rule out heart disease, eliminating the need for expensive drugs and risky testing in many circumstances.

With nearly 20,000 person-years of observation, the St. Francis Heart Study is the largest of its kind to date. The results demonstrated that the EBT Coronary Calcium Score predicts heart disease-related events such as heart attacks and strokes independent of standard risk factors and more accurately than standard risk factors and C-reactive protein (CRP).<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> JACC Arad et al. Vol. 46, no. 1, 2005

<sup>2</sup> JACC 2005

“For years the critics have been saying they need more data and more studies,” said SRPI member Dr. David Fein, Medical Director and CEO of Princeton Longevity Center in Princeton, New Jersey. “The validation of the EBT calcium score is here and they've got everything they were asking for. It's time to stop playing politics, focus on the published data and start giving patients the medical care they have the right to receive.”

The calcium score measures the amount of calcified plaque deposited in a person's coronary arteries. The greater the amount of plaque deposits, the higher the score and the greater the risk for heart disease and future events such as a heart attack. According to the study, persons who scored greater than 100 were at 10 times higher risk for suffering a future cardiac event than those scoring below 100. This risk is approximately five times higher than what is typically predicted using standard risk factors.

The St. Francis Heart Study also found the coronary calcium score to be superior to the long-standing Framingham risk factors in determining heart disease risk. SRPI member Dr. Robert F. Brunst, Medical Director of InnerVision Wellness Imaging in Carlsbad, Calif., said the findings should change how the larger medical community views cardiac risk assessment and EBT heart scans.

“The EBT heart scan is now a well-established and highly validated procedure that is far more predictive of future coronary events than any risk factor or combination of risk factors,” reasoned Brunst. “Furthermore, the use of the scan to determine which intermediate risk patients would benefit from more aggressive management has been recognized by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and incorporated in the current national cholesterol guidelines (NCEP ATP-III).”

In the St. Francis study, the EBT Calcium Score also identified patients who were classified as low risk under Framingham risk stratification who should be classified as intermediate risk, and intermediate risk patients who should be classified as high risk. Interestingly, the study also found that certain patients were found to be at lower risk than Framingham would indicate.

The SRPI advocates EBT imaging as the cornerstone technology in preventive cardiology and the nation's efforts to reduce the \$350 billion annual price tag<sup>3</sup> of heart disease.

### **About SRPI**

*Founded in 2003, the Society for Responsible Preventive Imaging (SRPI) is an organization of imaging centers, and the physicians, medical professionals and directors affiliated with those centers. Its mission is to responsibly communicate the benefits of appropriate medical and preventive testing procedures—including the high-speed, low-radiation electron beam tomography (EBT)—to medical professionals, associations and the general public. The SRPI strives to offer clinically proven alternatives to conventional screening tests while advocating the importance of a meaningful and well-informed patient/physician relationship. For more information, contact Dr. James Ehrlich at [telem@earthlink.net](mailto:telem@earthlink.net) or visit [www.armadamedical.com/SRPI](http://www.armadamedical.com/SRPI).*

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<sup>3</sup> A Public Health Action Plan to Prevent Heart Disease and Stroke, Section 1