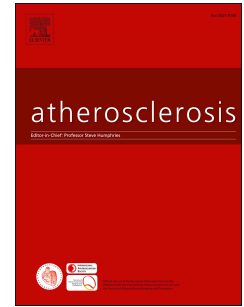


# Accepted Manuscript

Atherosclerosis imaging to refine cardiovascular risk assessment in diabetic patients:  
Computed tomography and positron emission tomography applications

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PII: S0021-9150(18)30084-4

DOI: [10.1016/j.atherosclerosis.2018.02.021](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atherosclerosis.2018.02.021)

Reference: ATH 15392

To appear in: *Atherosclerosis*

Received Date: 12 January 2018

Revised Date: 9 February 2018

Accepted Date: 14 February 2018

Please cite this article as: Raggi P, Atherosclerosis imaging to refine cardiovascular risk assessment in diabetic patients: Computed tomography and positron emission tomography applications, *Atherosclerosis* (2018), doi: [10.1016/j.atherosclerosis.2018.02.021](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atherosclerosis.2018.02.021).

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**Atherosclerosis imaging to refine cardiovascular risk assessment in diabetic patients:****Computed tomography and positron emission tomography applications***<sup>1,2</sup>Paolo Raggi*<sup>1</sup> Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute and <sup>2</sup>University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada**Correspondence**

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**Abstract**

The lifetime cardiovascular risk of a diabetic patient is approximately 4 to 5 times higher than that of an age and sex matched individual without diabetes mellitus. Despite the well-publicized cardiovascular risk equivalence of diabetes mellitus, it has become apparent that not all diabetic patients are equally at high-risk and many patients may have a level of risk similar to that of the general population. Cardiovascular imaging has been employed to address the dilemma of a more accurate risk stratification of diabetic patients. Two randomized clinical trials aiming at uncovering the presence of unknown obstructive coronary artery disease (CAD) gave disappointing results. In fact, the number of patients with inducible myocardial ischemia and/or severe obstructive disease was lower than expected and the overall outcome was not improved after having brought the existence of CAD to light. Other techniques that may help identify a diabetic patient susceptible to suffer future events have therefore being explored. In

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