Single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) for assessing myocardial viability

HAYES, Inc.

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Authors' objectives
Single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) is a 3-dimensional (3D) nuclear imaging technique that measures physiologic functions after administering a radiotracer consisting of a radionuclide and an organic substance specific to the function of interest. Molecules of the organic component bind to like molecules in the body, and decay of the radionuclide component produces gamma rays (photons), which are detected by a gamma scanning device, identifying where and to what level the radiotracer concentrates and, thereby, identifying functional abnormalities. In patients with coronary artery disease (CAD) and CAD-induced myocardial injury and consequent left ventricular (LV) dysfunction, SPECT has been proposed as a method for determining whether dysfunctional heart tissue is sufficiently viable to recover after restoration of myocardial blood flow through revascularization.

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