



**<u>Title:</u>** Validation of 3-Dimensional Quantitative Coronary Angiography based software to calculate Fractional Flow Reserve: Fast Assessment of STenosis severity (FAST)-study.

Authors: Kaneshka Masdjedi, M.D; Laurens JC van Zandvoort, BSc; Matthew M Balbi, M.D; Frank JH Gijsen, PhD; Jurgen MR Ligthart, RT; Marcel CM Rutten, ir, PhD; Miguel E Lemmert, M.D, PhD; Jeroen Wilschut, M.D; Roberto Diletti, M.D, PhD; Peter de Jaegere, M.D, PhD; Felix Zijlstra, M.D, PhD; Nicolas M Van Mieghem, M.D, PhD; Joost Daemen, .el Intervention M.D. PhD

**DOI:** 10.4244/EIJ-D-19-00466

**<u>Citation</u>**: Masdjedi K, van Zandvoort LJC, Balbi MM, Gijsen FJH, Ligthart JMR, Rutten MCM, Lemmert ME, Wilschut J, Diletti R, de Jaegere P, Zijlstra F, Van Mieghem NM, Daemen J. Validation of 3-Dimensional Quantitative Coronary Angiography based software to calculate Fractional Flow Reserve: Fast Assessment of STenosis severity (FAST)-study. EuroIntervention 2019; Jaa-580 2019, doi: 10.4244/EIJ-D-19-00466

Manuscript submission date: 07 January 2019

Revisions received: 07 May 2019

Accepted date: 10 May 2019

**Online publication date:** 07 May 2019

**Disclaimer:** This is a PDF file of a "Just accepted article". This PDF has been published online early without copy editing/typesetting as a service to the Journal's readership (having early access to this data). Copy editing/typesetting will commence shortly. Unforeseen errors may arise during the proofing process and as such Europa Digital & Publishing exercise their legal rights concerning these potential circumstances.

# Validation of 3-Dimensional Quantitative Coronary Angiography

# based software to calculate Fractional Flow Reserve:

Fast Assessment of STenosis severity (FAST)-study

Kaneshka Masdjedi<sup>1</sup>, MD; Laurens JC van Zandvoort<sup>1</sup>, BSc; Matthew M Balbi<sup>1</sup>, MD; Frank JH Gijsen<sup>1</sup>, PhD; Jurgen MR Ligthart<sup>1</sup>, RT; Marcel CM Rutten<sup>2</sup>, ir. PhD; Miguel E Lemmert<sup>1</sup>, MD, PhD; Jeroen Wilschut<sup>1</sup>, MD; Roberto Diletti<sup>1</sup>, MD, PhD; Peter de Jaegere<sup>1</sup>, MD, PhD; Felix Zijlstra<sup>1</sup>, MD, PhD; Nicolas M Van Mieghem<sup>1</sup>, MD, PhD; Joost Daemen<sup>1</sup>, MD, PhD

- 1. Department of Cardiology, Thoraxcenter, Erasmus Medical Center
- 2. Department of Cardiovascular Biomechanics, Technical University of Eindhoven

urolr

Short running title: Novel 3D-QCA based FFR, The FAST-study

# Address for correspondence:

Dr. J. Daemen

Department of Cardiology, Room Rg-628

**Erasmus University Medical Center** 

P.O. Box 2040

3000 CA Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Fax: +31 10 703 52 54/ Tel: +31 10 703 5260

E-mail: j.daemen@erasmusmc.nl



#### Abstract

**Aim:** To validate novel software to calculate vessel Fractional Flow Reserve (vFFR) based on 3D-QCA and to assess inter-observer variability in patients who underwent routine pre procedural FFR assessment for intermediate coronary artery stenosis.

**Methods and results:** In-vitro validation was performed in an experimental model. Clinical validation was performed in an observational, retrospective, single-center cohort study. A total of 100 patients presenting with stable angina or non-ST segment elevation myocardial infarction and an indication to perform FFR between Jan 2016 and Oct 2016 were included. vFFR was calculated based on the aortic root pressure along with two angiographic projections and validated against pressure wire-derived FFR.

Mean FFR and vFFR were 0.82±0.08 and 0.84±0.07 respectively. A good linear correlation was found between FFR and vFFR (r=0.89; p<0.001). Assessment of vFFR had a low inter-observer variability (r=0.95; p<0.001). The diagnostic accuracy of vFFR in identifying lesions with an FFR≤0.80 was higher as compared with 3D-QCA: AUC 0.93 (95% CI: 0.88-0.97) vs. 0.66 (95% CI: 0.55-0.77) respectively. **Conclusions:** The 3D-QCA derived vFFR has a high linear correlation to invasively measured FFR, a high diagnostic accuracy to detect FFR ≤ 0.80 and a low inter-observer variability.

Keywords: Stable Angina, Fractional Flow Reserve, QCA, Other technique

#### **Condensed Abstract:**

The Fast-study is an observational, retrospective, single-center study which validated novel three dimensional Quantitative Coronary Angiography based software to calculate vessel-Fractional Flow Reserve (vFFR), without using a pressure wire or a vasodilator agent. A good linear correlation was found between FFR and vFFR (r=0.89; p<0.001). Assessment of vFFR had a low inter-observer variability (r=0.95; p<0.001). vFFR had good accuracy in identifying lesions with an FFR≤0.80 (AUC 0.93; 95% CI [0.88 - 0.97]). In conclusion, 3D-QCA-based vFFR has a high linear correlation along with the second s to wired-based FFR, a high diagnostic accuracy to detect FFR ≤0.80 along with a low inter-observer variability.

# Abbreviations:

AUC	= Area under the curve
ACS	= Acute coronary syndrome
CAD	= Coronary artery disease
CFD	= Computational fluid dynamics
CVD	= Cardiovascular disease
dPR	= Diastolic pressure ratio
DS	= Diameter stenosis
FFR	= Fractional flow reserve
iFR	= instantaneous wave-free ratio
MLD	= Minimum lumen diameter
NHPR	= Non-hyperemic pressure ratio
NSTEMI	= Non ST-elevation myocardial infarction
QCA	= Quantitative coronary angiography
QFR	= Quantitative flow ratio
RFR	= Resting Full-cycle Ratio
ROC	= Receiver-operating characteristic
vFFR	= Vessel fractional flow reserve

#### Introduction

Invasive coronary angiography has served as the cornerstone for the diagnosis of patients with known or suspected coronary artery disease (CAD). Unfortunately, the technique is limited in its ability to assess the hemodynamic impact of intermediate coronary artery stenosis resulting in under- or overestimation of disease severity <sup>1</sup>. In order to overcome this limitation, Fractional Flow Reserve (FFR) has emerged as the mainstay of functional hemodynamic lesion assessment and is presently regarded as the gold standard for identifying stenoses that cause myocardial ischemia <sup>2-5</sup>. Despite indisputable evidence supporting the benefit of FFR to guide clinical decision making, adoption into daily practice has been limited. FFR assessment requires the use of a (costly) pressure wire or microcatheter along with the administration of a hyperemic agent associated with temporary patient discomfort <sup>6</sup>. Although non-hyperemic pressure ratios (NHPR) such as instantaneous wave-free ratio (iFR), resting full-cycle ratio (RFR) and diastolic pressure ratio (dPR) have emerged as adenosine-free faster and easier methods to achieve physiologic assessment, the need for a costly pressure wire remains a fact <sup>7-9</sup>.

The Fast Assessment of STenosis severity (FAST) study aimed to validate a new 3D-QCA-based software to calculate vessel-FFR (vFFR) using phantom models. In addition we correlated this index with pressure wire derived FFR in a consecutive series of patients and studied inter-observer variability.

#### Methods

#### In vitro experimental model

An in vitro experimental model was developed for technical validation of the calculation method performed by the CAAS workstation in phantoms. The experimental set-up consists of a chamber, a water-driven systemic and coronary circulation <sup>10</sup>. The chamber mimics the left ventricle and artificial valves mimic the mitral- and aortic valve of the heart (**Figure 1**). The piston is powered by a computer-controlled linear motor (ETB32, Parker) creating pulsatile flow at 75 beats per minute. For non-pulsatile flow, a constant flow pump (2035, Verder) fills a higher placed reservoir, with overflow function, the output of the reservoir connects to the mitral valve. A polyurethane tube models the aorta, and input impedance characterizes the systemic circulation behaviour. Flow through the aorta was set at approximately 5 l/min and measured using an ultrasound flow probe (Transonic 28PAU, with TS 410 flowmeter). The distal systemic compliance is modelled using a Windkessel, resulting in physiological pressure conditions.

# Coronary circulation

The in vitro coronary circulation comprised a tube (8mm diameter) connected to the ostium of the aorta with a phantom attached at the end of this tube. The phantom consisted of an 8mm tube with a 75% sinusoidal diameter stenosis (Model: QA-STV, Simutec). A resistance was placed at the outflow tract of the phantom to control the amount of flow through the phantom. The diameter of the tubes in the phantom are relatively large compared to human coronary artery dimensions. <sup>11</sup> To simulate significant pressure drop along the lesion, the average flow through the phantom was set higher as compared to physiological coronary flow, and was set to

an average of 100, 200, 300 and 400 ml/min for both pulsatile flow and constant flow<sup>12</sup> with Reynolds numbers of 1061, 2122, 3183 and 4244 for the stenotic segments and 265, 531, 796 and 1061 for healthy segments respectively. The proximal and distal pressures to the lesion were measured simultaneously with two pressure wires (Certus12006, Radi). The flow rate through the phantom was registered by an electromagnetic flow probe. The pressure drop was based on the difference between the measured pressures distal and proximal to the lesion. Measurements were averaged over four cycles during pulsatile flow, and the same vention period was used for averaging during constant flow.

#### Pressure drop computation methods

The pressure drop over the phantom lesions was computed using two different approaches: 1) Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) being considered a reference standard in blood flow simulations <sup>13</sup> and 2) by using CAAS Workstation 8.0 (Pie Medical Imaging, Maastricht, the Netherlands). A 3D surface mesh, corresponding to the geometry between the locations of the two pressure wires, was used for calculating the pressure drop by both approaches. Viscosity differences of water against blood were taken into consideration. The CFD approach uses a tetrahedron mesh with a mesh resolution adapted to specific vessel geometry and wall irregularities resulting in tetrahedron edge lengths varying between 0.05 and 0.8mm. Furthermore, three boundary layers were introduced to capture the blood flow close to the wall. Thickness of the boundary layers was calculated based on flow, viscosity, density and Reynolds number. Using the mesh, the CFD approach modeled flow using Navier-Stokes equations (Kratos, Multi-Physics 5, version 20). The following boundary conditions were applied: a constant parabolic flow profile at the inlet and a

stress free outlet (zero pressure). <sup>14</sup> Further, rigid-wall, non-slip conditions, and a Newtonian fluid approximation were used.

The CAAS Workstation 8.0 used for the experimental model was adapted to allow importing a 3D geometry of the phantom. A single flow as applied (fixed flow value over time) to both computational approaches, to eliminate time-variation in flow profile and pressure drop. In total four experiments with different flow values were performed. The experiment learned that the average pressure drop using pulsatile flow cycle provides similar results as when using constant flow (that equals the average of the pulsatile flow cycle). This observation justified the application of a single flow value for the computation approaches. The pressure drop obtained by both pulsatile and constant flow for the different flow values were compared to the computed pressure drop values of both the CFD approach and CAAS Workstation it Eurol' vFFR (Figure 2).

# **Clinical validation study**

# Study design and patient population

The FAST (Fast Assessment of STenosis severity) study is an observational, retrospective, single-center cohort study in which offline computation of vFFR as compared with conventional invasive FFR (St. Jude Aeris, Abbott Vasuclar, St Paul, MA, USA) was studied. From January 2016 through October 2016, patients ≥18 years of age presenting with stable coronary artery disease or non-ST elevation acute coronary syndrome who underwent pre-PCI FFR assessment were eligible. Angiographic inclusion criteria were: at least one intermediate stenosis in one of the epicardial coronary arteries (diameter stenosis of 30-70% by visual assessment). Exclusion criteria were FFR measurements with damped pressure curves, patients

with ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) or lesions containing thrombus, left main lesions, grafts, arteries with collaterals, cardiogenic shock or severe hemodynamic instability and adenosine intolerance.

## Procedure protocol

Procedures were performed according to standard local clinical practice. Angiographic lesion severity was assessed by two monoplane angiographic projections (at least 30 degrees apart, preferably orthogonal) after a bolus of 200mcg nitroglycine. Hyperemia during FFR measurement was achieved by continuous infusion of adenosine at a rate of 140 µg/kg/min through an antecubital vein for at least 2 minutes. Angiograms and pressure waveforms were stored as DICOM images for offline analyses. Aortic root pressure was constantly recorded. The last blood pressure measurement taken before the start of the FFR measurement was used as input in the CAAS/vFFR software.

# Patient selection, 3D- coronary reconstruction and computation of vFFR

**Figure 3** represents a flowchart showing all included and excluded patients. Computation of vFFR was performed offline and assessed blinded by 2 independent observers to assess inter-observer variability (KM, MB). A total of 3 two-dimensional images, were exported to the CAAS workstation 8.0 (Pie Medical Imaging, Maastricht, the Netherlands): two views with at least 30 degrees differences in rotation/angulation to create a 3D reconstruction of the coronary artery and one view to ascertain the position of the FFR pressurewire. Angiograms were recorded visualizing the entire vessel, taking into account overlapping and foreshortening to create a 3D reconstruction of the coronary artery as accurate as possible. The two independent observers used the same cine-images for the calculation of vFFR. Although temporal alignment of the cardiac cycle between the two angiograms was performed automatically by ECG triggering, manual frame selection was allowed. Contour detecting was performed semi-automatically, delineating the vessel contour from the ostium to the position at which the pressure wire sensor was positioned (3cm from the tip). As such both final frame selection and contour corrections were left to the discretion of the observer. The percent diameter stenosis, minimal lumen diameter, reference lumen diameter, minimal lumen area and lesion length were measured from the same 3D model as on which the vFFR was determined. The lesion segment was defined as proximal, mid or distal. vFFR was calculated automatically incorporating the invasively measured aortic root pressure and automatically generated 3D QCA values and vFFR along entire vessel instantaneously (**Figure 4**).

Within CAAS Workstation vFFR the pressure drop is calculated instantaneously by applying physical laws including viscous resistance and separation loss effects present in coronary flow behavior, as described by Gould and Kirkeeide. <sup>15, 16</sup>. The methods however are based on a single angiographic projection. Within CAAS vFFR, the geometry of the coronary artery is derived from wellvalidated 3D reconstructions <sup>17, 18</sup> which reduces the effects of foreshortening, out of plane magnification and non-symmetric coronary lesions. Furthermore, the pressure drop calculation by CAAS vFFR includes patient specific aortic pressure, as measured during the catheterization procedure. Maximum hyperemic blood flow was empirically determined from clinical data and we assumed that proximal coronary velocity is preserved along the coronary of interest which is adapted based on the patient specific aortic rest pressure and the 3D geometry of the coronary artery.

#### Statistical analysis

Continuous variables are presented as mean ±standard deviation. All continuous variables were normally distributed. Categorical variables are expressed as counts and percentages. All statistical tests are 2-tailed. Pearson's correlation coefficient (r) was used to assess the relationship between FFR and vFFR and to assess inter-observer variability. Agreement between the indices and the inter-observer reliability were assessed by Bland-Altman plots with corresponding 95% limits of agreement. Receiver-operating characteristic (ROC) area under the curve (AUC) analysis was used to estimate the diagnostic performance of vFFR as compared to the wire-based FFR threshold of ≤0.80. Statistical analysis was carried out using the SPSS statistical package version 24 (IBM, Armonk, North Castle, New York, USA).

## Results

# Pre-clinical data

Pulsatile flow based pressure measurements corresponded well with pressure drops obtained by constant flow (0.36±0.37 mmHq, r>0.99; p=0.002), (Figure 2). This supported the assumption to apply a single flow value for the computational approaches. The CFD pressure drop results showed excellent agreement with the experimental pulsatile and constant flow (-0.36±0.28 mmHg and 0.01±0.38 mmHg respectively, r>0.99; p<0.002), as well as the CAAS Workstation vFFR pressure drop results (0.52 ±0.28 mmHg and -0.16±0.11 mmHg respectively, r>0.99; p<0.002). The difference between CFD and vFFR was -0.17±0.34 mmHg with excellent agreement romierver (r>0.99; p<0.002).

### **Clinical data**

#### Patient demographics and procedural data

One hundred patients were included. Mean age was 64±11 years, 67% were male and 26% had diabetes. The majority of the FFR measurements were performed in the left anterior descending artery (60%). The circumflex and right coronary artery were involved in 13% and 27% of the cases respectively. Mean angiographic percent diameter stenosis (DS), lesion length and minimum lumen diameter (MLD), measured from 3D-QCA, were 37±13%, 20±13 mm and 1.7±0.3 mm respectively (Table 1).

#### Correlation and agreement between FFR and vFFR

Mean FFR and vFFR were 0.82±0.08 and 0.84±0.07 respectively. A good linear correlation was found between FFR and vFFR (r=0.89; p<001). Sensitivity

analysis of patients presenting with ACS vs. stable patients showed no differences in correlation between FFR and vFFR (r=0.89 vs 0.89 respectively). Assessment of vFFR had a low inter-observer variability (r=0.95; p<0.001) (Figure 5). vFFR had a good accuracy in the identification of patients with significant FFR values  $\leq 0.80$  (AUC of 0.93 [95% CI: 0.88–0.97]) (Figure 6). The diagnostic accuracy of 3D-QCA, based on percentage diameter stenosis was lower as compared to the diagnostics accuracy of vFFR (AUC of 0.66 [95% CI: 0.55–0.77]).

copyright EuroIntervention

#### Discussion

The FAST study confirmed the feasibility of novel 3D-QCA based software to calculate FFR without the use of a pressure wire or microcatheter. In the pre-clinical technical validation model vFFR proved to have a strong correlation with CFD and measured flow parameters. In our clinical validation study we confirmed a good agreement and high diagnostic accuracy of vFFR as compared to invasively measured FFR. Finally, we showed that vFFR had a low inter-observer variability.

In the past decade a wealth of data has become available demonstrating the superiority of FFR guided PCI as compared to angiography guided PCI <sup>4, 5, 19</sup>. FFR subsequently received strong recommendations in current revascularization guidelines <sup>3, 20</sup>. Even though the use of FFR proved to be contrast saving, cost effective and associated with improved quality of life, FFR is still not being performed in the vast majority of cases <sup>3, 5, 19, 20</sup>. The latter has been hypothesized to be due to the need for (in some countries) expensive hyperemic agents with known adverse events as dyspnea and arrhythmias and or intolerance due to pulmonary disease and the use of a costly pressure wire <sup>6</sup>. More recently, the advent of adenosine-free non hyperemic pressure ratios proved to be a valuable alternative to FFR. The need for a dedicated pressure however still remains a fact. For these reasons, the search for cheaper, faster and more patient-friendly methods to assess coronary physiology remains imperative.

One of the first studies assessing the potential of angiography based functional lesion assessment was published by Papafaklis et al. in which the CAAS 3D-QCA was used to calculate a virtual Functional Assessment Index (vFAI)<sup>21</sup> by following the concepts as introduced by Gould et al., reporting that pressure drop was linked to flow using linear and quadratic terms ( $\Delta$ P=fvQ + fsQ2)<sup>22</sup>. In order to compute the

vFAI the authors first solved the fv and fs parameters from the artery-specific quadratic equation by performing two separate CFD simulations using the geometry resulting based on 3D-QCA. In both CFD simulations, the arterial wall was considered to be rigid and no-slip conditions were applied at the vessel wall, while a reference pressure of 100 mmHg was imposed as boundary condition at the inlet and steady flow (fully developed laminar, and incompressible blood flow) was imposed at the outlet. One CFD simulation was performed with a steady flow of 1 ml/sec (corresponding to the average flow at rest) and one CFD simulation was performed with a steady flow of 3 ml/sec (corresponding to the average flow during hyperemia). After solving fv and fs parameters, the vFAI was computed as the ratio of the area under the curve (Pd/Pa=1- $f_v$  Q/Pa- $f_s$  Q<sup>2</sup>/Pa) for a flow range from 0 to 4ml/sec. The vFAI estimates the overall behavior of the artery/stenosis-specific Pd/Pa versus flow relationship and is not identical to FFR. This approach bypasses the need to derive a patient specific blood flow within the coronary of interest. CAAS vFFR calculates the true pressure drop using patient specific aortic pressure and estimates a single patient specific coronary blood flow used for each pressure drop calculation.

Several recent studies assessed the potential value of 3D-QCA based FFR <sup>23-25</sup>. In the VIRTU-1 study <sup>24</sup>, Morris et al. developed a computer model that accurately predicted virtual FFR from angiographic images alone assuming 3D reconstruction, using a Philips workstation. A good correlation (r=0.84) of virtual FFR was found with invasive FFR. The technology however used lengthy CFD analysis hampering direct clinical applicability.

More recent studies validated easier methods using contrast flow models to calculate 3D-QCA-based FFR by using frame counting <sup>25, 26</sup>. The FAVOR Pilot Studyassessed the diagnostic accuracy of quantitative flow ratio (QFR) as measured

offline in three different ways, based on the different mean hyperemic flow velocities <sup>26</sup>. The authors observed a good agreement with FFR and a high diagnostic accuracy for identifying a positive FFR (FFR<0.80). Comparable results were recently found in the FAVOR II China Study in which online QFR has a high feasibility and accuracy in identifying hemodynamically significant coronary artery stenosis <sup>25</sup>. In both studies, QFR was performed using a prototype software package (QAngio XA 3D prototype, Medis Medical Imaging System, Leiden, the Netherlands). The contrast flow models by QAngio however have several limitations.

Coronary flow velocity is a highly sensitive variable which is influenced by clinical and haemodynamic parameters such as heartrate, bloodpressure, left ventricular end diastolic pressure, left and/or right ventricular hypertrophy and systemic diseases as diabetes mellitus, large vessel disease etc. <sup>27, 28</sup> It is well known, that coronary perfusion occurs mainly during diastole. This implies that coronary velocity is not constant during the entire cardiac cycle and therefore passage of contrast agent might be different in systole and diastole. In addition, there are phasic changes in resistance. The perfusion of the left coronary artery (LCA) is predominantly diastolic while the perfusion of right coronary artery (RCA) is both systolic and diastolic, due to lower pressure in the right ventricle as compared with the left ventricle. Therefore, one could assume differences while using frame count methods to obtain pressure gradients in the left vs. the right coronary artery. Unfortunately, no inter-observer or inter-study variability was reported in both FAVOR studies. In contrast, in the present study, we demonstrated an excellent inter-observer variability (r=0.95; p<0.001).

The mean QCA-based diameter stenosis in the FAVOR II China study was 46.5% and about 34% of the measured lesions had an FFR ≤0.80. A discrepancy

could be appreciated between the relatively low mean QCA based diameter stenosis (37%) and the percentage of vFFR values  $\leq 0.80$ . Part of the discrepancy can be explained by the fact that the presented QCA figures and percentages diameter stenoses were based on 3D assessment which is per definition lower than the conventional 2D percentages <sup>29</sup>. Additionally, there have been several reports about the discordance between anatomical and functional assessment of coronary lesions is far from rare. <sup>30-32</sup>

Despite the relatively low % diameter stenosis in the present study, 42% of the patients had an FFR  $\leq 0.80$  which was comparable to the results of the FFRangio Accuracy versus Standard FFR (FAST-FFR) study (43% of FFR values were  $\leq 0.80$ )<sup>23</sup>. The FAST-FFR study was a prospective, multicenter, international trial demonstrating that FFR<sub>angio</sub> (CathWorks, Kfar-Saba, Israel) had a high sensitivity, specificity and accuracy in providing functional angiographical mapping of the entire coronary tree as compared with the pressure wire based FFR.

The FAST study is the first validation study of CAAS vFFR with a limited sample size and offline assessment of vFFR. Clinical outcome studies should be obtained to assess the value of vFFR measured by CAAS Workstation for the hemodynamic assessment of lesion severity into daily clinical practice.

#### Limitations

Our study has several limitations. First, it is a single center experience in which we restricted our analyses to those recordings with undamped pressure wave forms. Previous work showed the high prevalence of suboptimal FFR curves in clinical practice (up to 30%) suggesting an additional benefit when using techniques based on angiography and simplified flow models.<sup>33</sup> Second, the software's accuracy in

complex vessels, e.g. bifurcations and diffusely diseased vessels, remains to be determined in larger patient cohorts. Furthermore, as mentioned in the methods section, contour detection was performed semi-automatically. Finally, although vFFR calculation was performed by two independent observers, there was no independent core-lab involved. Independent corelab adjudication of vFFR will be performed in the ongoing international multicenter FAST II study.

### Conclusion

vFFR based on 3D-QCA as determined using novel software has a high linear correlation to invasively measured FFR, a high diagnostic accuracy to detect FFR ≤ rolnterver 0.80 along with a low inter-observer variability.

#### Impact on daily practice

There is a clear need to simplify the use of coronary physiology in order to increase its uptake in daily clinical practice. Once vFFR technology becomes more widely available, it might fundamentally change the way both diagnostic coronary angiography and PCI are being performed.

# Funding

: Institutional research support Pie Medical Imaging

# **Conflict of interest statement**

Kaneshka Masdjedi	: institutional research grant support from Acist
	Medical.
Laurens J.C. van Zandvoort	: institutional research grant support from Acist
	Medical.
Joost Daemen	: institutional research support from Acist Medical,
	Boston Scientific, Abbott Vascular and Medtronic.
	Consultancy fees from PulseCath, Medtronic, Acist
	Medical, Recor Medical
Nicolas Van Mieghem	: research grant support from Edwards, Medtronic,
	Abbott, Boston Scientific, Pulse Cath, Acist Medical,
1 cr	Essential Medical.

The remaining authors have nothing to disclose.

# **REFERENCES:**

1. Lindstaedt M, Spiecker M, Perings C, Lawo T, Yazar A, Holland-Letz T, Muegge A, Bojara W, Germing A. How good are experienced interventional cardiologists at predicting the functional significance of intermediate or equivocal left main coronary artery stenoses? Int J Cardiol 2007;**120**(2):254-61.

2. De Bruyne B, Pijls NH, Kalesan B, Barbato E, Tonino PA, Piroth Z, Jagic N, Mobius-Winkler S, Rioufol G, Witt N, Kala P, MacCarthy P, Engstrom T, Oldroyd KG, Mavromatis K, Manoharan G, Verlee P, Frobert O, Curzen N, Johnson JB, Juni P, Fearon WF, Investigators FT. Fractional flow reserve-guided PCI versus medical therapy in stable coronary disease. N Engl J Med 2012;**367**(11):991-1001.

3. Neumann FJ, Sousa-Uva M, Ahlsson A, Alfonso F, Banning AP, Benedetto U, Byrne RA, Collet JP, Falk V, Head SJ, Juni P, Kastrati A, Koller A, Kristensen SD, Niebauer J, Richter DJ, Seferovic PM, Sibbing D, Stefanini GG, Windecker S, Yadav R, Zembala MO, Group ESCSD. 2018 ESC/EACTS Guidelines on myocardial revascularization. Eur Heart J 2018.

4. Pijls NH, van Schaardenburgh P, Manoharan G, Boersma E, Bech JW, van't Veer M, Bar F, Hoorntje J, Koolen J, Wijns W, de Bruyne B. Percutaneous coronary intervention of functionally nonsignificant stenosis: 5-year follow-up of the DEFER Study. J Am Coll Cardiol 2007;**49**(21):2105-11.

5. Tonino PA, De Bruyne B, Pijls NH, Siebert U, Ikeno F, van' t Veer M, Klauss V, Manoharan G, Engstrom T, Oldroyd KG, Ver Lee PN, MacCarthy PA, Fearon WF, Investigators FS. Fractional flow reserve versus angiography for guiding percutaneous coronary intervention. N Engl J Med 2009;**360**(3):213-24.

6. Toth GG, Toth B, Johnson NP, De Vroey F, Di Serafino L, Pyxaras S, Rusinaru D, Di Gioia G, Pellicano M, Barbato E, Van Mieghem C, Heyndrickx GR, De Bruyne B, Wijns W. Revascularization decisions in patients with stable angina and intermediate lesions: results of the international survey on interventional strategy. Circ Cardiovasc Interv 2014;7(6):751-9.

7. Ligthart J, Masdjedi K, Witberg K, Mastik F, van Zandvoort L, Lemmert ME, Wilschut J, Diletti R, de Jaegere P, Zijlstra F, Kardys I, Van Mieghem NM, Daemen J. Validation of Resting Diastolic Pressure Ratio Calculated by a Novel Algorithm and Its Correlation With Distal Coronary Artery Pressure to Aortic Pressure, Instantaneous Wave-Free Ratio, and Fractional Flow Reserve. Circ Cardiovasc Interv 2018;**11**(12):e006911.

8. Sen S, Escaned J, Malik IS, Mikhail GW, Foale RA, Mila R, Tarkin J, Petraco R, Broyd C, Jabbour R, Sethi A, Baker CS, Bellamy M, Al-Bustami M, Hackett D, Khan M, Lefroy D, Parker KH, Hughes AD, Francis DP, Di Mario C, Mayet J, Davies JE. Development and validation of a new adenosine-independent index of stenosis severity from coronary wave-intensity analysis: results of the ADVISE (ADenosine Vasodilator Independent Stenosis Evaluation) study. J Am Coll Cardiol 2012;**59**(15):1392-402.

9. Svanerud J, Ahn JM, Jeremias A, van 't Veer M, Gore A, Maehara A, Crowley A, Pijls NHJ, De Bruyne B, Johnson NP, Hennigan B, Watkins S, Berry C, Oldroyd KG, Park SJ, Ali ZA. Validation of a novel non-hyperaemic index of coronary artery stenosis severity: the Resting Full-cycle Ratio (VALIDATE RFR) study. EuroIntervention 2018.

10. Geven MC, Bohte VN, Aarnoudse WH, van den Berg PM, Rutten MC, Pijls NH, van de Vosse FN. A physiologically representative in vitro model of the coronary circulation. Physiol Meas 2004;**25**(4):891-904.

11. Dodge JT, Jr., Brown BG, Bolson EL, Dodge HT. Lumen diameter of normal human coronary arteries. Influence of age, sex, anatomic variation, and left ventricular hypertrophy or dilation. Circulation 1992;**86**(1):232-46.

12. Li S, Chin C, Thondapu V, Poon EKW, Monty JP, Li Y, Ooi ASH, Tu S, Barlis P. Numerical and experimental investigations of the flow-pressure relation in multiple sequential stenoses coronary artery. Int J Cardiovasc Imaging 2017;**33**(7):1083-1088.

13. Morris PD, Narracott A, von Tengg-Kobligk H, Silva Soto DA, Hsiao S, Lungu A, Evans P, Bressloff NW, Lawford PV, Hose DR, Gunn JP. Computational fluid dynamics modelling in cardiovascular medicine. Heart 2016;**102**(1):18-28.

14. Wentzel JJ, Gijsen FJ, Schuurbiers JC, Krams R, Serruys PW, De Feyter PJ, Slager CJ. Geometry guided data averaging enables the interpretation of shear stress related plaque development in human coronary arteries. J Biomech 2005;**38**(7):1551-5.

15. Gould KL, Kelley KO, Bolson EL. Experimental validation of quantitative coronary arteriography for determining pressure-flow characteristics of coronary stenosis. Circulation 1982;**66**(5):930-7.

16. Kirkeeide R. Coronary obstructions, morphology and physiologic significance. 1991:229–44.

17. Girasis C, Schuurbiers JC, Muramatsu T, Aben JP, Onuma Y, Soekhradj S, Morel MA, van Geuns RJ, Wentzel JJ, Serruys PW. Advanced three-dimensional quantitative coronary angiographic assessment of bifurcation lesions: methodology and phantom validation. EuroIntervention 2013;**8**(12):1451-60.

18. Schuurbiers JC, Lopez NG, Ligthart J, Gijsen FJ, Dijkstra J, Serruys PW, Van der Steen AF, Wentzel JJ. In vivo validation of CAAS QCA-3D coronary reconstruction using fusion of angiography and intravascular ultrasound (ANGUS). Catheter Cardiovasc Interv 2009;**73**(5):620-6.

19. Siebert U, Arvandi M, Gothe RM, Bornschein B, Eccleston D, Walters DL, Rankin J, De Bruyne B, Fearon WF, Pijls NH, Harper R. Improving the quality of percutaneous revascularisation in patients with multivessel disease in Australia: cost-effectiveness, public health implications, and budget impact of FFR-guided PCI. Heart Lung Circ 2014;**23**(6):527-33.

20. Levine GN, Bates ER, Blankenship JC, Bailey SR, Bittl JA, Cercek B, Chambers CE, Ellis SG, Guyton RA, Hollenberg SM, Khot UN, Lange RA, Mauri L, Mehran R, Moussa ID, Mukherjee D, Nallamothu BK, Ting HH. 2011 ACCF/AHA/SCAI Guideline for Percutaneous Coronary Intervention: a report of the American College of Cardiology Foundation/American Heart Association Task Force on Practice Guidelines and the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions. Circulation 2011;**124**(23):e574-651.

21. Papafaklis MI, Muramatsu T, Ishibashi Y, Lakkas LS, Nakatani S, Bourantas CV, Ligthart J, Onuma Y, Echavarria-Pinto M, Tsirka G, Kotsia A, Nikas DN, Mogabgab O, van Geuns RJ, Naka KK, Fotiadis DI, Brilakis ES, Garcia-Garcia HM, Escaned J, Zijlstra F, Michalis LK, Serruys PW. Fast virtual functional assessment of intermediate coronary lesions using routine angiographic data and blood flow simulation in humans: comparison with pressure wire - fractional flow reserve. EuroIntervention 2014;**10**(5):574-83.

22. Gould KL. Pressure-flow characteristics of coronary stenoses in unsedated dogs at rest and during coronary vasodilation. Circ Res 1978;**43**(2):242-53.

23. Fearon WF, Achenbach S, Assali TEA, Jeremias RSA, Fournier S, Kirtane AJ, Kornowski R, Greenberg G, Jubeh R, Kolansky DM, McAndrew T, Dressler O, Maehara A,

Matsumura M, Leon MB, Bruyne BD. Accuracy of Fractional Flow Reserve Derived From Coronary Angiography. Ciculation 2018.

24. Morris PD, Ryan D, Morton AC, Lycett R, Lawford PV, Hose DR, Gunn JP. Virtual fractional flow reserve from coronary angiography: modeling the significance of coronary lesions: results from the VIRTU-1 (VIRTUal Fractional Flow Reserve From Coronary Angiography) study. JACC Cardiovasc Interv 2013;**6**(2):149-57.

25. Xu B, Tu S, Qiao S, Qu X, Chen Y, Yang J, Guo L, Sun Z, Li Z, Tian F, Fang W, Chen J, Li W, Guan C, Holm NR, Wijns W, Hu S. Diagnostic Accuracy of Angiography-Based Quantitative Flow Ratio Measurements for Online Assessment of Coronary Stenosis. J Am Coll Cardiol 2017;**70**(25):3077-3087.

26. Tu S, Westra J, Yang J, von Birgelen C, Ferrara A, Pellicano M, Nef H, Tebaldi M, Murasato Y, Lansky A, Barbato E, van der Heijden LC, Reiber JH, Holm NR, Wijns W, Group FPTS. Diagnostic Accuracy of Fast Computational Approaches to Derive Fractional Flow Reserve From Diagnostic Coronary Angiography: The International Multicenter FAVOR Pilot Study. JACC Cardiovasc Interv 2016;**9**(19):2024-2035.

27. Hoffman JI. Problems of coronary flow reserve. Ann Biomed Eng 2000;28(8):884-96.

28. van de Hoef TP, Siebes M, Spaan JA, Piek JJ. Fundamentals in clinical coronary physiology: why coronary flow is more important than coronary pressure. Eur Heart J 2015;**36**(47):3312-9a.

29. Nishi T, Kitahara H, Fujimoto Y, Nakayama T, Sugimoto K, Takahara M, Kobayashi Y. Comparison of 3-dimensional and 2-dimensional quantitative coronary angiography and intravascular ultrasound for functional assessment of coronary lesions. J Cardiol 2017;**69**(1):280-286.

30. Nakamura M, Yamagishi M, Ueno T, Hara K, Ishiwata S, Itoh T, Hamanaka I, Wakatsuki T, Sugano T, Kawai K, Akasaka T, Tanaka N, Kimura T. Prevalence of visual-functional mismatch regarding coronary artery stenosis in the CVIT-DEFER registry. Cardiovasc Interv Ther 2014;**29**(4):300-8.

31. Park SJ, Kang SJ, Ahn JM, Shim EB, Kim YT, Yun SC, Song H, Lee JY, Kim WJ, Park DW, Lee SW, Kim YH, Lee CW, Mintz GS, Park SW. Visual-functional mismatch between coronary angiography and fractional flow reserve. JACC Cardiovasc Interv 2012;**5**(10):1029-36.

32. Tonino PA, Fearon WF, De Bruyne B, Oldroyd KG, Leesar MA, Ver Lee PN, Maccarthy PA, Van't Veer M, Pijls NH. Angiographic versus functional severity of coronary artery stenoses in the FAME study fractional flow reserve versus angiography in multivessel evaluation. J Am Coll Cardiol 2010;**55**(25):2816-21.

33. Matsumura M, Johnson NP, Fearon WF, Mintz GS, Stone GW, Oldroyd KG, De Bruyne B, Pijls NHJ, Maehara A, Jeremias A. Accuracy of Fractional Flow Reserve Measurements in Clinical Practice: Observations From a Core Laboratory Analysis. JACC Cardiovasc Interv 2017;**10**(14):1392-1401.

#### Figure Legends:

**Figure 1.** Schematic of the in vitro experimental model. The LV-chamber pumps water through the aorta flow prove (qao) and the artificial valve into the aorta and from the aorta into the systemic Windkesssel components ( $R_{ao}$ , L, C and  $R_p$ ). A tube, representing the coronary artery, branches off the aorta, passes the phantom, the coronary flow probe ( $q_c$ ) towards a venous outlet (V). The pressure sensors are positioned proximal ( $P_{prox.}$ ) and distal ( $P_{dist.}$ ) to the lesion in the phantom, the flow ( $q_c$ ) is measured at the outflow tract of the phantom. The flow through the phantom is controlled by the resistance ( $R_c$ ) in the outflow tract.

**Figure 2.** Pressure drop resulting from pressure measurements during pulsatile flow (red line) and constant flow (green line) as well as the computed pressure drop by the Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) (light blue) and CAAS Workstation vFFR (dark blue).

Figure 3. Flowchart of all included and excluded patients.

**Figure 4.** Three-dimensional reconstruction of coronary artery and computation of vessel-FFR, using 2 angiographic projections with at least 30 degrees apart and invasively measured aortic root pressure.

**Figure 5.** Scatter Plots showing the relationship between vFFR vs. wire-based FFR **(A)** and inter-observer variability **(B)** and Bland- Altman plots of differences against the means. The mean bias is represented by the solid red line and the 95% confidence interval is represented by the dashed lines.

**Figure 6.** ROC Curves for vFFR and 3D-QCA. Comparison is made with a wirebased FFR at a cut point of 0.80. 
 Table 1. Baseline characteristics.

	Total
	N = 100
Age, y, mean±SD	64±11
Male gender, n (%)	67 (67)
Cardiovascular risk factors, n (%)	
Hypertension	70 (70)
Hyperlipidemia	59 (59)
Diabetes Mellitus	26 (26)
Current smoker	25 (25)
Peripheral artery disease	10 (10)
Medical history and co-morbidity, mean±SD	
eGFR, ml/min	88±30
Hemoglobine, (mmol/L)	8.2±1.4
BMI	28±5
Lesions location and characteristics, n (%)	
Left anterior descending artery	60 (60)
Left circumflex artery	13 (13)
Right coronary artery	27 (27)
Tortuous vessels	28 (28)
Tandem lesions	7 (7)
Moderate or severe calcification	36 (36)
Bifurcation lesions	21 (21)
Ostial lesions	2 (2)

Diffuse disease	31 (31)
Coronary angiography indication, n (%)	
Stable coronary artery disease	60 (60)
Unstable coronary artery disease	14 (14)
NSTEMI	26 (26)
3D- Quantitative Coronary Angiography, mean±SD	
Lesion length, mm	20±13
Minimal lumen diameter, mm	1.7±0.33
Minimal lumen area, mm <sup>2</sup>	2.3±0.96
Diameter stenosis, %	37±13
Reference vessel diameter, mm	2.8±0.5
Indices, mean±SD	
FFR	0.82±0.08
vFFR	0.84±0.07

Values are n, mean±SD of n (%); BMI= Body Mass Index; eGFR= estimated glomerular filtration rate; FFR= Fractional Flow Reserve; NSTEMI= Non-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction; vFFR= vessel Fractional Flow Reserve.













