



GE HealthCare



# Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac

A summary of peer-reviewed clinical evidence

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# Content

1. Introduction.....	3
2. Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac for every patient, every exam.....	4
3. Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac technology enablers.....	6
4. Improve CCTA diagnostic performance in patients with very high heart rate (>80 bpm).....	9
5. Improve CCTA diagnostic performance in patients with Atrial Fibrillation.....	11
6. Explore free-breathing CCTA without heart rate control.....	13
7. Explore CCTA without heart rate control.....	14
8. CCTA at low dose of radiation and contrast injection.....	15
9. Submillisievert CCTA in children with coronary artery anomalies.....	17
10. Improve diagnostic performance in patients with functionally significant CAD.....	19
11. Improve diagnostic performance in patients with suspected In-Stent Restenosis or CAD progression.....	20
12. Replace invasive coronary Angiography in treatment planning for patient with multivessel disease.....	22
13. One-stop TAVI/TAVR protocol with only one contrast medium injection.....	23
14. Unleash the full potential with ECG-less Cardiac.....	25
15. References.....	26

# Introduction

Since its emergence in the late 1990s, cardiac computed tomography (CT) has undergone rapid technological advancements and has become a robust non-invasive imaging tool for the diagnosis, prognosis and treatment planning of heart disease.

Based on strong research and clinical evidence, guideline bodies have endorsed incorporating cardiac CT more definitively than before. The 2019 European Society of Cardiology guidelines for chronic coronary syndromes recommend cardiac CT as the initial test to diagnose obstructive coronary artery disease (CAD) in symptomatic patients<sup>1</sup>. The joint 2022 American Heart Association and American College of Cardiology guidelines for chest pain management strongly recommend using cardiac CT in the evaluation and diagnosis of both stable and acute chest pain<sup>2</sup>.

GE HealthCare (GEHC) has been the industry leader in pioneering cardiac CT technologies since 1998's introduction of 4-row multi-slice CT that made cardiac CT a technical reality. Since then, key technology advancements have been introduced to transform cardiac CT from a technical novelty to an easy-to-use, routine clinical tool (Figure 1).

The most important breakthrough was the introduction of whole-heart-coverage CT systems (Revolution™ CT in 2013, Revolution Apex CT in 2018 and Revolution Apex Elite in 2021) that combine the benefits of whole-heart-coverage, fast temporal resolution and high spatial resolution in one robust cardiac CT solution: Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac.

As the name suggests, Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac is a wing-to-wing CT acquisition and reconstruction solution that obtains high-quality coronary CT angiography (CCTA) and structural heart exams within a single cardiac cycle in patients with any heart rate and rhythm.

By capturing the necessary data in a single heartbeat, the overall imaging time is decreased with Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac. It may improve diagnostic performance of CCTA for challenging patients in the presence of an elevated heart rate (HR), HR variability and arrhythmia, and difficulty following breath-hold commands. It streamlines the cardiac CT workflow by eliminating the need to administer beta-blockers. It also creates one-stop cardiac protocols to allow coronary evaluation in exams indicated for structural heart disease, congenital heart diseases and myocardial evaluation.

Worldwide users and researchers have conducted multiple studies to evaluate its diagnostic performance in imaging challenging cardiac patients. This white paper summarizes the evidence from key studies to provide references for practitioners incorporating this technology into their clinical practice<sup>3</sup>.

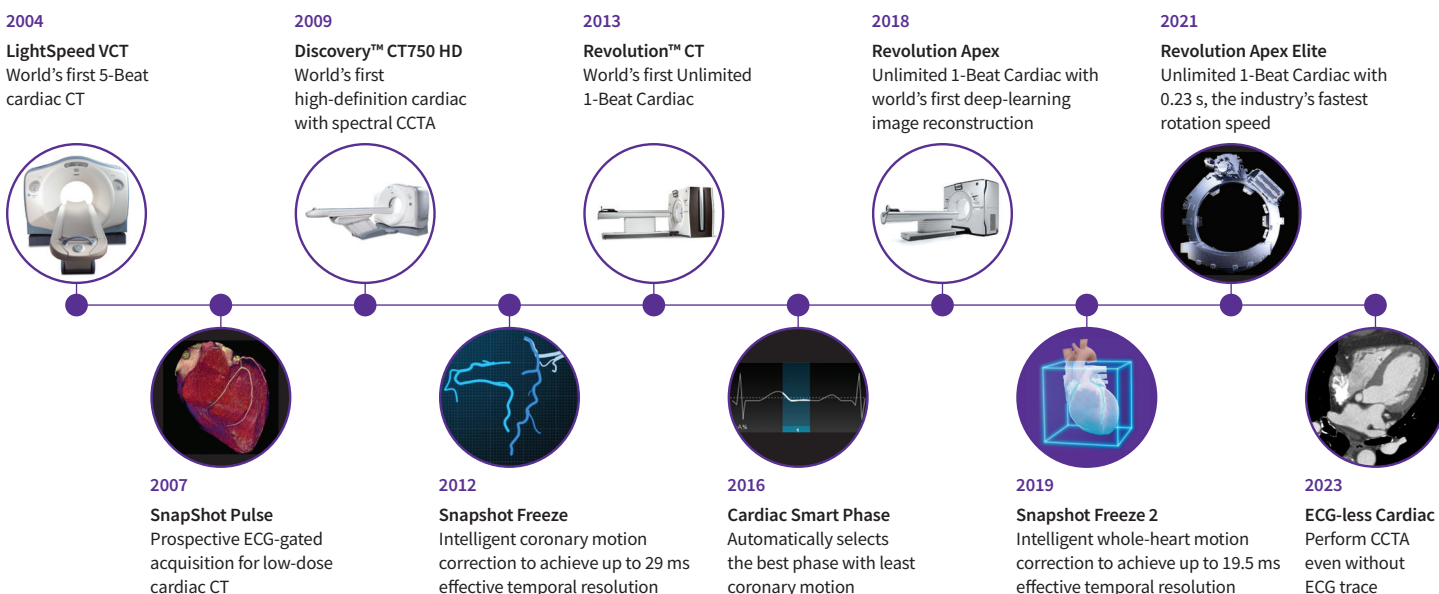


Figure 1. GE HealthCare innovation timeline in cardiac CT.

<sup>3</sup> The studies varied by clinical indications, study protocols and comparison methods. The results and conclusions obtained in these studies are applicable to the specific studies cited and may not be generalizable or reproducible in every practice.

# Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac for every patient, every exam

While other cardiac CT systems may provide a 1-beat cardiac feature that can be applied only to patients with low and stable heart rates (<60 bpm), Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac can apply to all heart rates and rhythms, even in challenging patients with very high heart rates (>80 bpm) and atrial fibrillation (AF).

Table 1 summarizes key findings of Unlimited 1-beat Cardiac studies from selected peer-reviewed publications.

Subjects	Key findings	Population	Reference
CCTA in high heart rate patients	Allows high CCTA diagnostic accuracy for the detection of >50% coronary stenosis, with markedly low radiation exposure in high heart rate patients (2.9 mSv in heart rate ≥80 bpm) by acquiring data within the phase between end-systole and end-diastole in one cardiac cycle.	100 adult patients with HR ≥80 bpm and 102 with HR ≤65 bpm, all with a clinical indication for CCTA because of suspected but unknown CAD	3
CCTA in atrial fibrillation patients	High diagnostic accuracy of CCTA in patients with atrial fibrillation, compared to the gold standard of ICA, at a markedly lower effective dose.	83 adult patients with atrial fibrillation and 83 with sinus rhythm, all without known CAD scheduled for clinically indicated elective ICA	22
Free-breathing CCTA	The free-breathing CCTA with unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac protocol enabled coronary evaluation with excellent image quality, and remarkable diagnostic accuracy despite high heart rate during the acquisition.	325 free-breathing adult patients and 291 breath-holding, all with chest pain referred for CCTA for ruling out CAD	27
CCTA without heart rate control	With Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac CT and experienced radiographers (technologist), drugless radiographer-led CCTA can deliver a 20-minute CCTA timeslot for cardiac patients with satisfactory image quality, while allowing reallocation of medical practitioner time to CCTA reporting.	1028 stable adult patients with chest pain referred for CCTA	28
CCTA with low dose of radiation and contrast use	Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac with low kV and TrueFidelity is reported to demonstrate up to 54.5% radiation dose reduction and 50.6% iodine contrast medium usage reduction in normal size patients, and up to 45% radiation dose reduction and 43% iodine contrast medium usage reduction in overweight patients.	50 adult patients in a low-dose group and 50 in a conventional protocol group, all with BMI ≥ 26 kg/m <sup>2</sup> suspected of CAD and referred to CCTA	6 7
CCTA in pediatric patients	For the first time in a pediatric population, the COROPEDIA clinical trial demonstrated Unlimited 1-Beat CCTA for pediatric patients with coronary artery anomalies, with submillisievert radiation dose.	50 pediatric patients with congenital heart disease and with a suspected or confirmed coronary artery anomaly	34
FFRct and CT Perfusion	A sequential strategy based on Unlimited 1-Beat CCTA followed by FFRct and myocardial perfusion imaging has the ability to provide a full overview of anatomical and functional aspects of CAD.	85 symptomatic CAD adult patients with intermediate and high-risks	37

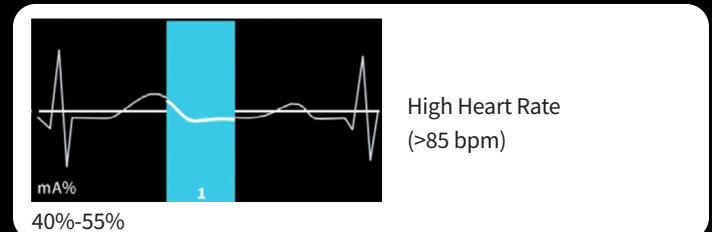
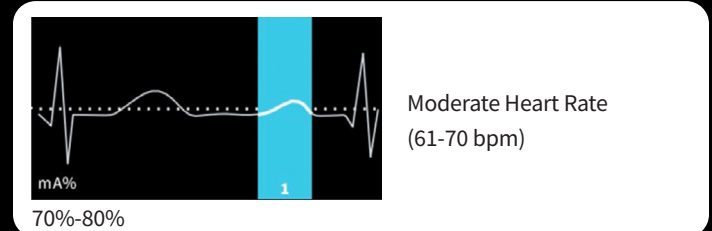
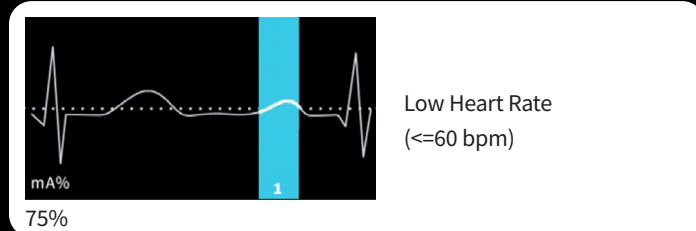
Subjects	Key findings	Population	Reference
In-stent stenosis	For patients with coronary stents, Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac with high-resolution mode and TrueFidelity can improve the clarity and visibility of the in-stent lumen; concordant with myocardial CTP can significantly improve overall diagnostic performance while maintaining relatively low radiation dose.	47 adult patients with coronary stenting and suspected CAD progression, 150 stented adult patients with suspected in-stent restenosis or CAD progression	39 40
CT for CABG planning	CABG guided by Unlimited 1-Beat CCTA is feasible and has an acceptable safety profile in a selected population of complex CAD.	114 adult patients with equivalent angina, silent ischemia, and chronic or stabilized acute coronary syndrome for surgical revascularization	43
TAVI planning	TAVI protocols allow the holistic assessment of aortic root, coronary arteries and peripheral vessels in the same exam with low iodine contrast medium use and low radiation dose, potentially leading to a reduction of unnecessary ICA in patients without CAD, as well as the total cost for patients' management.	115 adult patients referred for CT and ICA before TAVI planning due to severe symptomatic aortic valve stenosis and considered at high surgical risk	45

# Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac technology enablers

Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac offers a group of versatile scan protocols that enable 1-beat prospectively electrocardiogram (ECG) gated acquisition at different cardiac phases and heart rates, within a single heartbeat, as Figure 2 illustrates. This capability is made possible by a comprehensive and robust end-to-end CT system design, including hardware, firmware and software (figure 3).

## 1-Beat Protocol

### 1-Beat CCTA protocol



### 1-Beat CCTA and Function protocol

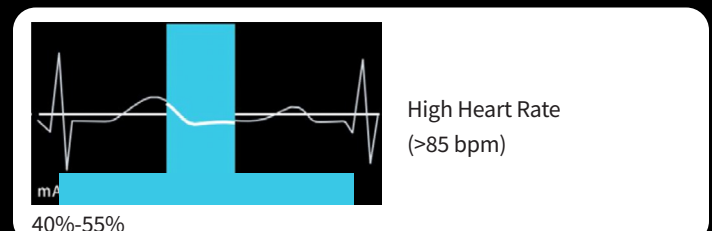
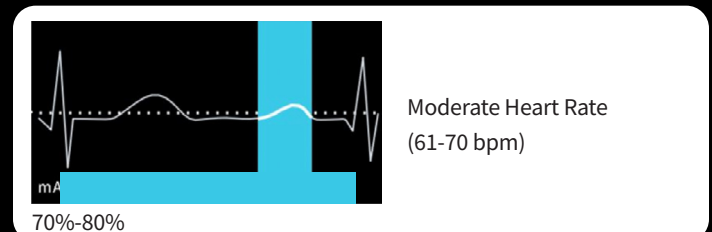
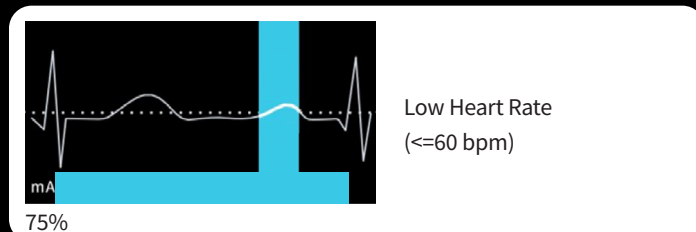


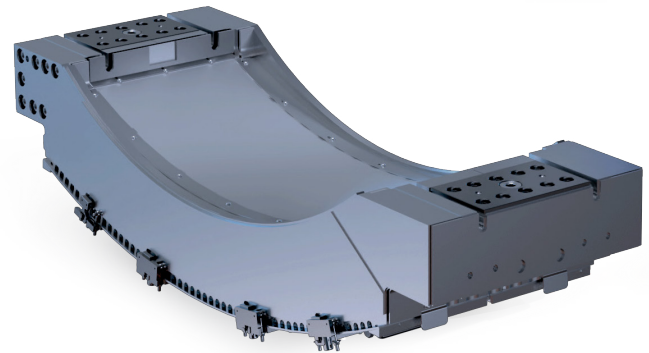
Figure 2: Examples of GEHC Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac reference protocols.

The out-of-the-box reference protocols provide baseline 1-beat acquisition and reconstruction windows as a function of heart rates and rhythm. Users can modify and create tailor-made 1-beat protocols based on the clinical indications, requirement for image quality and radiation dose. The additional standard Auto Gating profiles are available for other cardiovascular clinical use cases.

## 160 mm Whole-Heart-Coverage Clarity Detector

The 160 mm Clarity Detector's z-coverage makes whole-heart coverage in a single axial rotation a reality. This hardware breakthrough eliminates the step-stair artifact, which is reported to occur in up to 18% of patients<sup>4</sup> and 77% of coronary segments in different CT scanners with narrow detectors<sup>5</sup>.

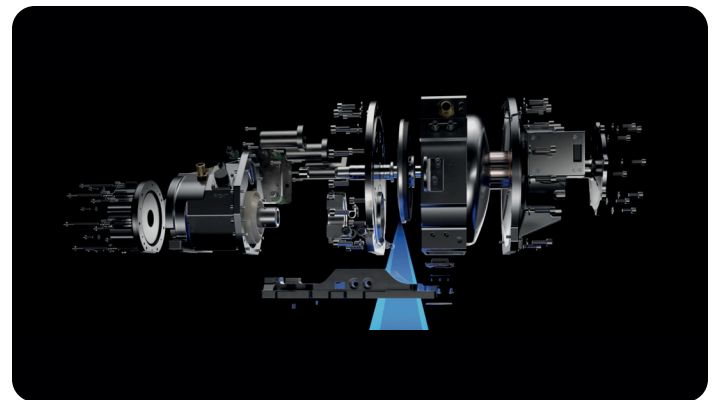
The Clarity Detector also supports high-definition (HD) imaging mode with a 8,914 Hz sampling rate. HD imaging mode delivers the highest 0.23 mm spatial resolution, which helps facilitate accurate stenosis assessment, in-stent investigation and calcium de-blooming.



**160 mm z-coverage Clarity Detector**  
For high-resolution imaging

## 1300 mA Quantix X-Ray Tube

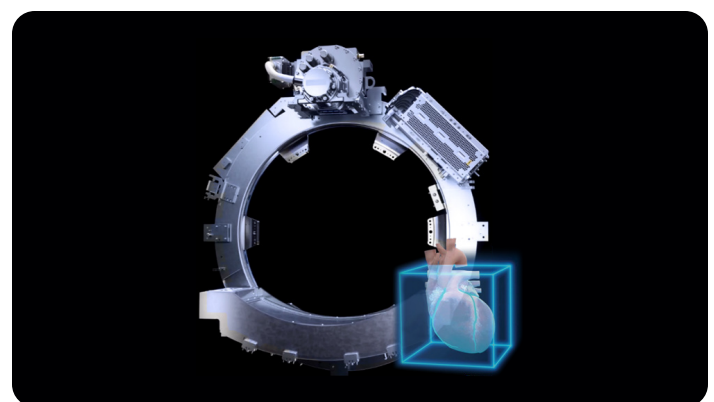
The Quantix X-ray tube combines 1300 mA output and 160 mm z-coverage in a single axial exposure. The maximum 1,300 mA output not only ensures enough X-ray photon flux for high-quality CCTA in obese patients, it also makes scanning at low kV (70, 80 kV) a routine CCTA protocol. Low kV scans potentially enhance the image contrast to better delineate the coronary arteries, and potentially reduce radiation dose and optimize the amount of contrast medium needed for the scan, which can be beneficial for patients with renal insufficiency or other contraindications to contrast media<sup>6,7</sup>.



**Up to 1300 mA power**  
For low kV scanning and obese patients

## 19.5 msec Effective Temporal Resolution<sup>i</sup> with intelligent motion correction

Temporal resolution is a critical factor in cardiac CT imaging because it determines the ability to freeze the motion of the beating heart, thus reducing motion artifacts and improving image clarity. Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac in the Revolution Apex systems delivers 19.5 msec effective cardiac temporal resolution<sup>i</sup>, enabled by the fastest 0.23 s gantry rotation and SnapShot Freeze 2 whole-heart motion-correction algorithm. This hardware-plus-software temporal resolution is crucial for the robustness of Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac in imaging challenging cardiac patients with increased heart rates to improve image quality and diagnostic accuracy of 1-beat CCTA<sup>8</sup>. For CT systems without this effective temporal resolution, multisegment reconstruction that requires multi-beat cardiac acquisition is often required, which increases the risks of stair-step artifacts and higher radiation dose.



**0.23s**  
The industry's fastest rotation with intelligent motion correction

<sup>i</sup> Effective temporal resolution achieved by a 6x improvement of motion-blur reduction while maintaining high spatial resolution as demonstrated in cardiac phantom testing. The reduction in motion artifacts is comparable to a 0.039 Equivalent Gantry Rotation Speed with effective temporal resolution of 19.5 msec at 0.23 sec gantry rotation time, as demonstrated in mechanical and mathematical phantom testing. This is the experience of a single facility and may not be generalizable or reproducible. 19.5 ms temporal resolution is available on the Apex Elite and Apex Plus.

# Auto Gating

Auto Gating is the brain of Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac acquisition. Based on the real-time monitoring of a patient's ECG signal, Auto Gating can automatically identify and recommend the ideal timing to scan the whole heart in a single beat at any heart rate, and the optimal phase or phase range of one cardiac cycle when motion is minimal (Figure 2). Auto Gating synchronizes a CT system with 16 cm whole-heart coverage to enable 1-Beat Cardiac acquisition for any heart rates. The feature also contributes to dose reduction by ensuring that the X-ray exposure is limited to the necessary phase(s) of only one cardiac cycle.

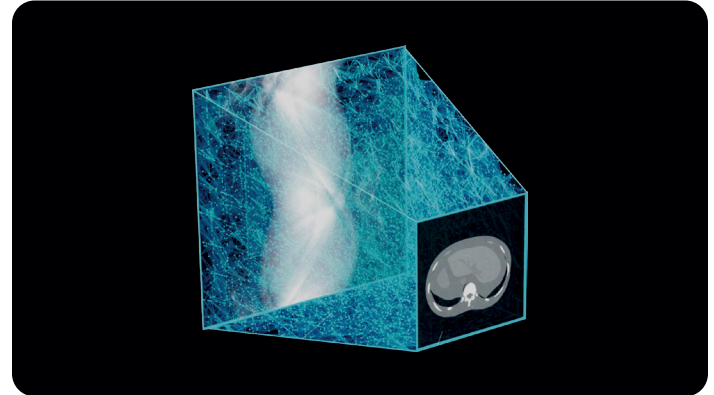
# Smart Arrhythmia management

Smart Arrhythmia Management is designed specifically to enhance the robustness of 1-Beat Cardiac acquisition for challenging patients with arrhythmia. If an arrhythmia is detected, the Smart Arrhythmia Management feature can adjust in real-time the scan timing to capture a normal heart cycle. This capability minimizes the chances of failed cardiac scans, reducing the need for repeat scans, saving time and reducing radiation exposure to patients with no technologist interaction.

# Cardiac smart phase

Cardiac Smart Phase is a reconstruction feature designed to intelligently select the best cardiac phase for image reconstruction. With Smart Phase, the acquired phase range is automatically searched in 2% phase intervals during the reconstruction process to determine the optimal phase with least coronary motions for image reconstruction. This ensures improved image quality with the least motion and enhances workflow by reducing the need for manual phase adjustments<sup>9</sup>.

# TrueFidelity deep learning image reconstruction



### TrueFidelity

Delivers outstanding detail and clarity texture at low dose

A first of its kind, TrueFidelity utilizes a deep neural network-based reconstruction engine, which was trained to differentiate noise from signals and to intelligently suppress the noise without impacting anatomical and pathological structures. TrueFidelity CT images can deliver superior cardiac CT image quality with reduced noise and preferred noise texture for high diagnostic accuracy<sup>10</sup>. It also potentially helps to reduce the X-ray radiation dose and iodine contrast medium administered to patients<sup>6,11,12</sup>.



Figure 3. Technology Enablers

Technology enablers of Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac include wing-to-wing hardware and software innovations in data acquisition and image reconstruction.

# Improve CCTA diagnostic performance in patients with very high heart rate (>80 bpm)

Diagnostic performance of CCTA can be compromised by motion and stair-step/slice misalignment artifacts due to high HR and heart rate variability (HRV)<sup>13</sup>. High HR (>80 bpm) is often observed in patients admitted in the emergency department for acute chest pain and suspected acute coronary syndrome, an emergent situation for which CCTA has a critical clinical role.

To evaluate the diagnostic performance of Unlimited 1-Beat CCTA in patients with high HR, Andreini et al. enrolled 202 patients in a prospective study<sup>3</sup>. Among the patients admitted for CCTA, 100 had a HR  $\geq 80$  bpm (mean age:  $64 \pm 8$  years; mean BMI:  $27.4 \pm 5.2$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>; mean HR:  $93.2 \pm 23.6$  bpm), while the remaining 102 had a HR  $\leq 65$  bpm (mean age:  $68 \pm 8$  years; mean BMI:  $26.4 \pm 3.6$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>; mean HR:  $57.3 \pm 6.8$  bpm). The qualitative assessment led by two independent reviewers revealed that the image quality was high in each group without significant difference between the two (score of  $3.35 \pm 1.3$  vs.  $3.39 \pm 1.3$  on a 4-point Likert scale,  $p = ns$ , in HR  $\geq 80$  bpm and  $\leq 65$  bpm groups, respectively), which led to a similarly excellent segment interpretability rate in both groups (97.3 % vs. 98 %,  $p = ns$ , in HR  $\geq 80$  bpm and  $\leq 65$  bpm groups, respectively). Additionally, on a segment-based analysis, CCTA had a comparable diagnostic accuracy for the detection of >50% stenosis between groups of patients with low and high HR (sensitivity, specificity, and accuracy of 95.2 vs. 95.4, 98.9 vs. 98.1 and 98.7 vs. 97.7 in HR  $\geq 80$  bpm and  $\leq 65$  bpm groups, respectively).

Although previous studies demonstrated that good image quality could be achieved in CCTA of patients with HR  $\geq 80$  bpm using CT such as like 128-slice dual-source systems, it was at the expense of a relatively high radiation dose (mean effective dose  $>20$  mSv)<sup>14</sup>. On the contrary, the results from Andreini et al. showed that the use of the Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac on Revolution CT allowed clinicians to achieve a markedly lower radiation exposure in high HR patients (2.9 mSv vs. 1.1 mSv in HR  $\geq 80$  bpm and  $\leq 65$  bpm groups, respectively) by acquiring data within an acquisition window of 500 ms (corresponding to the phase between end-systole and end-diastole). (Figure 4)

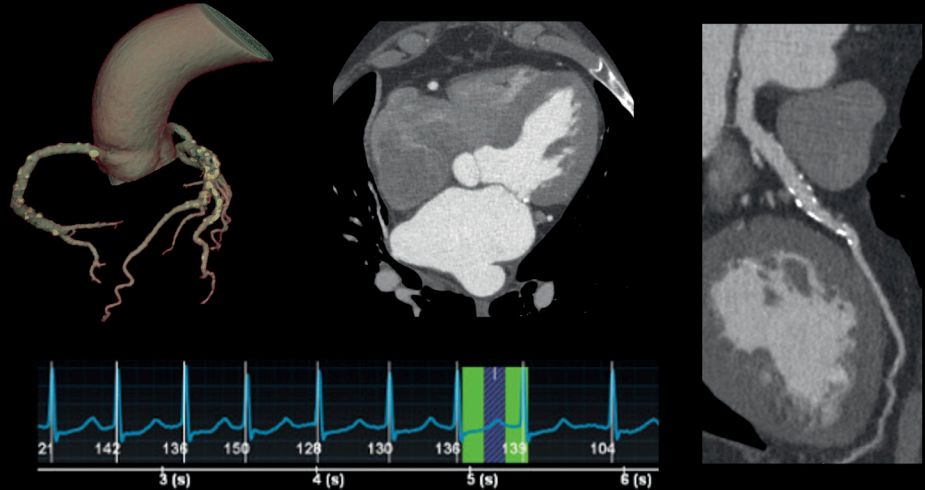
## Publication conclusion

Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac allows high CCTA diagnostic accuracy for the detection of >50% coronary stenosis, with markedly low radiation exposure in high heart rate patients (2.9 mSv in heart rate  $\geq 80$  bpm) by acquiring data within the phase between end-systole and end-diastole in one cardiac cycle<sup>3</sup>.

# High heart rate

## Acquisition

Scan type	1-Beat Axial Gated
Rotation time, s	0.23
BPM	139
Slice, mm	0.625
Reconstruction	DLIR
Auto prescription	80 kV
mA	1300
Contrast	
ml - mg/ml	28 - 370
Reconstruction	Standard
CTDIvol, mGy	7.8
DLP, mGy-cm	125
Eff. dose, mSv	1.7
k, *DLP	0.014
BMI	26.3



**Figure 4. Unlimited 1-Beat CCTA with exceptional low radiation dose and iodine contrast volume for a patient with high HR and HR variability.** An 80 kV/1300 mA/0.23 s 1-Beat acquisition (green box) was performed when heart rate was 139 bpm. Smart Phase selected the optimal phase (blue box) to reconstruct with TrueFidelity deep-learning image reconstruction. Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac delivered motion-free and stair-step-free CCTA images with high diagnostic quality, low radiation dose (1.7 mSv) and low iodine contrast volume (28 ml).

*Images courtesy of Prof. Kaufmann, University Hospital Zürich, Switzerland*

# Improve CCTA diagnostic performance in patients with Atrial Fibrillation

AF is a common type of arrhythmia that's increasing prevalence. It causes the upper chambers of the heart to beat rapidly and irregularly. Patients with AF have been reported to have higher risk of cardiovascular events, including stroke, heart failure and other complications for which a non-invasive evaluation using a cardiac CT provides high clinical value.

AF, however, poses significant challenges to the diagnostic performance of CCTA primarily due to motion and stair-step artifacts caused by high HR and high HRV. For CT without a whole-heart-coverage detector, retrospectively ECG-gated helical acquisition should be considered in AF cases<sup>13</sup>, which results in higher radiation doses and longer post-processing time to conduct ECG editing or select the best phase for image reconstruction<sup>15</sup>. Previous studies performed in small groups of patients with AF enabled researchers to confirm that image quality, coronary artery interpretability and diagnostic accuracy of CCTA are still suboptimal, particularly when high HR and HRV are present<sup>16-21</sup>.

Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac provides a robust acquisition and image reconstruction solution to scan the AF cases with low radiation dose and without stair-step artifacts (Figure 5). A great number of prospective studies have evaluated its robustness and diagnostic performance.

Andreini et al. compared the image quality, interpretability, diagnostic accuracy and radiation exposure of CCTA between 83 patients with AF and 83 patients with sinus rhythm (mean HR:  $83 \pm 21$  vs.  $63 \pm 14$  bpm; HRV:  $33 \pm 24$  vs.  $5 \pm 4$  bpm in the AF and sinus rhythm groups, respectively)<sup>22</sup>. The study highlighted that the image quality in exams of AF patients was excellent and comparable to the quality of exams in patients with sinus rhythm (score of  $3.25 \pm 1.2$  vs.  $3.31 \pm 1.2$  on a 4-point Likert scale,  $p = ns$ , in AF and sinus rhythm groups, respectively). Accordingly, the overall coronary interpretability was similar in the two groups ( $98.5\%$  vs.  $98.4\%$ ,  $p = ns$ , in AF and sinus rhythm groups, respectively). Those image quality and interpretability performances resulted in a high diagnostic accuracy of CCTA in patients with AF, compared to the gold standard of invasive coronary angiography (ICA). Notably, in a subgroup of 22 patients with HR >90 bpm, sensitivity and specificity were  $98.4\%$  and  $99.6\%$ , respectively, in a segment-based analysis and  $92.3\%$  and  $87.5\%$ , respectively, in a patient-based analysis.

Some prior studies had already showed good image quality and high diagnostic accuracy in patients with AF, which was achieved only when HR was low<sup>15</sup>, or <70 bpm, even when the latest generations of CT systems were used<sup>23</sup>. However, it was achievable at the expense of a significantly high effective radiation dose, ranging from 9 to 16 mSv. Conversely, using Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac acquisition protocol on the Revolution CT allowed Andreini et al. to achieve a good image quality and high diagnostic accuracy in patients with AF at a markedly lower effective dose of  $3.9 \pm 2.1$  mSv.

Concordant findings were reported by Wen et al. in a study evaluating the impact of HR and HRV on the image quality and radiation dose of CCTA in 70 patients with AF<sup>24</sup>. Two experienced radiologists assessed the image quality (in terms of visibility and artifacts on a 4-grade rating scale from 1: excellent to 4: insufficient) of the exams, which were divided into four groups according to patient's HR or HRV (group A: HR,  $\geq 75$  bpm,  $n = 36$ ; group B: HR <75 bpm,  $n = 34$ ; group C: HRV  $\geq 50$  bpm,  $n = 26$ ; and group D: HRV <50 bpm,  $n = 44$ ). Despite significant difference in HR between group A and B ( $111.6 \pm 37.2$  vs.  $63.2 \pm 6.7$  bpm, respectively) and in HRV between group C and D ( $66.3 \pm 13.0$  vs.  $17.9 \pm 12.9$ , respectively), the compared groups had good and similar image quality ( $1.62 \pm 0.39$  vs.  $1.49 \pm 0.38$ ,  $p = .654$ , for groups A and B, respectively;  $1.59 \pm 0.44$  vs.  $1.53 \pm 0.36$ ,  $p = .147$ , for groups C and D, respectively) associated with a high global interpretability rate ( $98.4\%$ ). Those results led the authors to conclude that CCTA of patients with AF offered diagnostic value without HR or HRV significantly impacting image quality. Regarding patient exposure, while higher HR or HRV led to increased effective dose, Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac on the Revolution CT allowed clinicians to keep it relatively low ( $3.76 \pm 2.22$  vs.  $2.30 \pm 2.02$  mSv,  $p = .05$ , for groups A and B, respectively;  $3.89 \pm 2.35$  vs.  $2.56 \pm 2.03$  mSv,  $p = .05$ , for groups C and D, respectively).

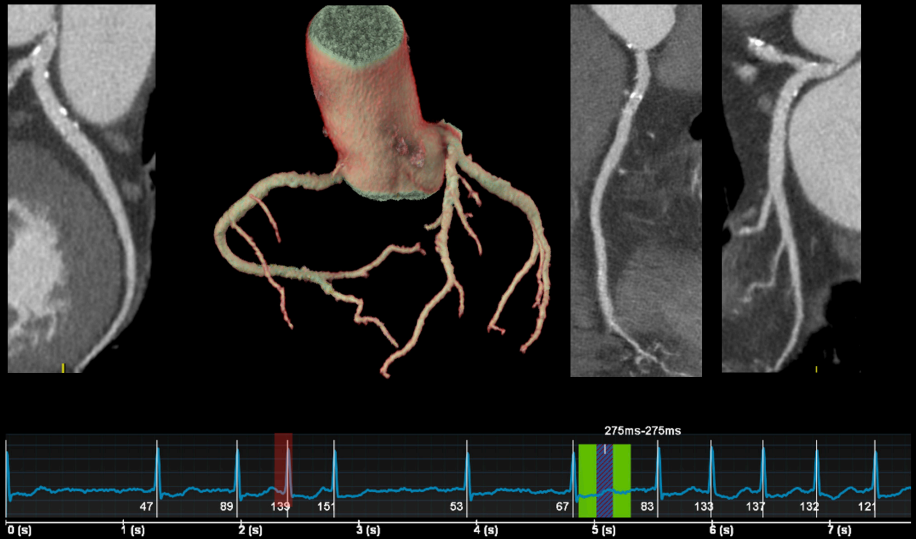
## Publication conclusion

Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac reaches a high diagnostic accuracy of CCTA in patients with atrial fibrillation, compared to the gold standard of ICA, at a markedly lower effective dose of less than 4 mSv on average<sup>22</sup>.

# Atrial Fibrillation

## Acquisition

Scan type	1-Beat Axial Gated
Rotation time, s	0.23
BPM	47-151
BMI	20
Slice, mm	0.625
Reconstruction	DLIR
Auto prescription	100 kV
mA	330
Contrast	
ml/flow - mg/ml	40/4.0 – 320
Reconstruction	HD Standard
CTDIvol, mGy	7.88
DLP, mGy-cm	126
Eff. dose, mSv	1.7
k, *DLP	0.014



**Figure 5. Unlimited 1-Beat CCTA in a patient with atrial fibrillation.**

Electrocardiogram shows high HR and HR variability (47-151 bpm) during the scan in this patient with AF. Smart Arrhythmia Management feature kicked in and intelligently avoided a premature beat (red box). 1-Beat acquisition was successfully performed when heart rate dropped to 67 bpm (green box) and reconstructed 275 ms data (blue box) with TrueFidelity. The image quality ensures exceptional coronary artery interpretability. The radiation dose for CCTA was only 1.7 mSv.

*Images courtesy of Prof. Kaufmann, University Hospital Zürich, Switzerland*

# Explore free-breathing CCTA without heart rate control

CCTA scans usually require an inspiratory breath-holding cooperation of patients to reduce artifact caused by respiration. In practice, some factors may affect a patient's ability to hold their breath, such as elderly patients with reduced lung capacity, patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, or other respiratory conditions, and patients with anxiety or claustrophobia. For these patients, resultant major stair-step artifacts hamper the sufficient evaluation of the coronary arteries. The feasibility of performing free-breathing CCTA has been reported on 320-detector CT and dual-source CT using high-pitch scanning mode<sup>25,26</sup>, but is limited to scanning patients with stable and low HR (e.g. < 75 bpm or < 60 bpm).

To assess the feasibility of free-breathing CCTA without HR control on higher HR using Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac protocols on Revolution CT, Liu et al. enrolled 616 patients, among which 325 were scanned during breath-holding (mean age: 64.1 ± 10.6 years; mean BMI: 25.2 ± 3.2 kg/m<sup>2</sup>; mean HR: 70.8 ± 13.8 bpm) and 291 underwent a free-breathing exam (mean age: 64 ± 8 years; mean BMI: 27.4 ± 5.2 kg/m<sup>2</sup>; mean HR: 93.2 ± 23.6 bpm)<sup>27</sup>. The assessment of the objective (signal to noise ratio of the aorta) and subjective image quality (on a 4-grade rating scale; from 1: excellent to 4: poor) revealed no significant difference between the two groups (SNR: 16.55 ± 4.65 vs. 15.61 ± 3.79, p=.358; image quality score: 1.49 ± 0.62 vs. 1.53 ± 0.67; p=.647; for breath-holding and free-breathing groups, respectively). Similarly, in a segment-based analysis, the sensitivity, specificity and diagnostic accuracy in the detection of >50% coronary stenosis did not differ between breath-holding and free-breathing acquisitions (82.1 vs. 82.2%, 96.8% vs. 96.6%, and 92.2 vs. 92.2%, p>.9). Finally, holding breath or not during the scan had no significant impact on the radiation dose delivered to the patients (mean effective dose: 1.99 ± 0.83 mSv vs. 2.01 ± 0.88 mSv, p=.975, for breath-holding and free-breathing groups, respectively).

## Publication conclusion

Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac enabled free-breathing coronary evaluation with excellent image quality and remarkable diagnostic accuracy despite high heart rate during the acquisition. Image quality, radiation dose and diagnostic accuracy in free-breathing patients were comparable with those with breath-holding<sup>27</sup>.

# Explore CCTA without heart rate control

Traditionally, CCTA acquisition has required the administration of beta-blockers to gain adequate HR control. This has commonly been given on the CT table as an intravenous injection or orally outside the scanner with monitoring; patient appointment times have been 30 minutes or more.

Based on Unlimited 1-Beat CCTA robustness in imaging patients with high HR and arrhythmia, clinicians explored the feasibility of conducting CCTA without HR control.

Morgan-Hughes et al. reported that a radiographer-led Cardiac CT service delivered 20-minute timeslots for CCTA of patients with stable chest pain without administration of beta-blockers or nitroglycerin<sup>28</sup>. Among the 1024 patients (mean age:  $63 \pm 13$  years; mean BMI:  $29 \pm 6$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>; mean HR:  $70 \pm (40-148)$  bpm) included in this retrospective analysis, according to the reporting cardiologist's or radiologist's ability to provide a definitive Coronary Artery Disease Reporting and Data System (CAD-RADS) score, 96.5% of the exams were considered diagnostic. All CCTA exams were acquired with a median dose-length product (DLP) of 179 mGy.cm corresponding to an estimated total effective radiation dose of 4.5 mSv.

## Publication conclusion

With Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac CT and experienced radiographers, drugless (no beta-blocker) radiographer-led CCTA can deliver a 20-minute CCTA timeslot for cardiac patients with satisfactory image quality, while allowing reallocation of medical practitioner time to CCTA reporting<sup>28</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> The practice of not administering beta-blockers varies by facility and practices may differ at individual facilities. Always respect the drug's prescribing information.

# CCTA at low dose of radiation and contrast injection

Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac can potentially optimize radiation dose and the amount of contrast media by reducing total acquisition time and applying low kV protocols with TrueFidelity deep-learning image reconstruction. (Figure 6)

Li et al. explored the use of 70 kVp tube voltage combined with the High level of TrueFidelity in reducing both radiation and contrast doses in 1-Beat CCTA in normal size patients in comparison with conventional scan protocol using 120 kVp tube voltage and iterative reconstruction<sup>6</sup>. The analysis of 100 exams (50 in low-dose group and 50 in conventional protocol group; mean age: 65±13 vs. 61±11 years, p=.164 ; mean BMI: 22.60±2.06 vs. 22.55±2.36 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, p=.908 ; mean heart rate : 74.46±12.42 vs 70.88±14.54 bpm, p=.189) reported that the use of 70 kVp tube voltage combined with the high level of TrueFidelity for CCTA could reduce radiation dose by 54.5% (0.75±0.14 vs. 1.65±0.66 mSv in conventional protocol; p<.0001; and iodine contrast medium usage by 50.6% (3.82±3.69 vs. 48.23±6.38 mL) in conventional protocol; p<.0001), while further improving image quality compared with the conventional 120 kVp tube voltage with iterative reconstruction.

Similarly, they investigated the use of 80 kVp tube voltage combined with a high level of TrueFidelity and reduced contrast dose in comparison with standard acquisition (120 kVp with iterative reconstruction) and injection protocols in CCTA of 100 overweight patients (50 in low-dose group and 50 in conventional protocol group; mean age: 63±12 vs. 61±10 years, p=.233; mean BMI: 28.05±1.47 vs. 27.81±1.40 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, p=.399; mean heart rate: 71.42±12.48 vs 68.78±13.82 bpm, p=.319)<sup>7</sup>. Again, the results showed that the application of 80 kVp and TrueFidelity allowed the reduction of radiation dose by up to 45% (1.01±0.45 vs 1.85±0.40 mSv in conventional protocol, p <.001) and of contrast dose by up to 43% (33.69±3.87 vs 59.11±5.60 mL, p <.001) in comparison to standard protocols, while further improving image quality in CCTA for overweight patients.

## Publication conclusion

Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac with low kV and TrueFidelity is reported to demonstrate up to 54.5% radiation dose reduction and 50.6% iodine contrast medium usage reduction in normal size patients<sup>6</sup>, with up to 45% radiation dose reduction and 43% iodine contrast medium usage reduction in overweight patients<sup>7</sup>.

## Ultra-low dose

### Acquisition

Scan type	Axial Gated
Rotation time, s	0.23
BPM	61
BMI	19.6
Slice, mm	0.625
Reconstruction	DLIR
Auto prescription	80 kV
mA	350
Contrast	
ml – mgI/ml	25 – 320
Reconstruction	HD Standard
CTDIvol, mGy	1.19
DLP, mGy-cm	19.1
Eff. dose, mSv	0.26
k, *DLP	0.014

0.26 mSv, 25 ml contrast medium

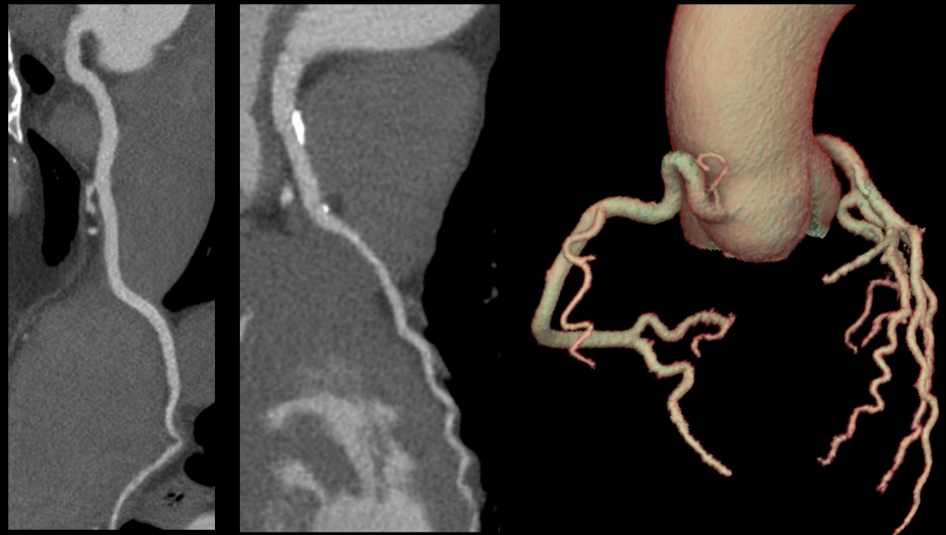


Figure 6. Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac with 80 kV and 0.23 s achieves exceptional image quality with ultra-low dose (0.26 mSv) and low contrast medium volume (25 ml).

# Submillisievert CCTA in children with coronary artery anomalies

Congenital heart disease (CHD) is the most common congenital anomaly, and CT has been established as an effective non-invasive imaging tool to assess complex CHD for over two decades. Coronary artery anomalies are commonly associated with CHD. It is important to evaluate these anomalies to avoid errors in diagnosis and decrease technical difficulties in surgery<sup>29</sup>. With limitations of echocardiography and cardiac MR in fully characterizing coronary anatomy, especially in evaluating the distal coronary artery for younger CHD patients with coronary artery anomalies, CCTA has superior accuracy for this indication because of its ability to simultaneously visualize the complete coronary arteries and the great vessels.

Performing CCTA in the pediatric population is technically challenging because of elevated HR during acquisition, uncontrolled patient movements and complex anatomies. Conventional prospectively ECG-triggered monophasic acquisitions (without any padding) are often used to minimize the radiation dose, but may lead to 11% to 15% of non-diagnostic or suboptimal quality examinations due to higher and unstable HR. Retrospective ECG-gated acquisitions can achieve high image quality through multiphasic acquisition when HR is high, but often result in a substantial amount of radiation, from 3 to 11 mSv<sup>30-33</sup>.

Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac on Revolution CT and Revolution Apex provides versatile 1-beat acquisition protocols to adapt the acquisition window within the cardiac cycle as a function of patients' HR and HR variability to achieve better (higher image quality) and safer (lower radiation dose) CCTA (Figure 7).

The COROPEDIA trial (Observational Study for Feasibility and Performance of Sub-millisievert Coronary Computed Tomography Angiography for Coronary Artery Anomalies in Pediatric Patients) was established to prospectively assess the feasibility of this new way of performing submillisievert CCTA on children with CHD.

Fifty pediatric patients (mean age:  $6.1 \pm 4.9$  years; mean HR:  $90 \pm 26$  bpm; mean HRV:  $14 \pm 11$  bpm) with CHD and a suspected or confirmed coronary artery anomaly underwent CCTA performed within a single heartbeat<sup>34</sup>. A specific CT acquisition scheme, made up of one central phase at the maximum radiation dose and a secondary phase receiving only a fraction of this dose, was designed to acquire projections at the best theoretical phase within the cardiac cycle. While the secondary phase was included between 25% and 85% of the R-R interval, the position of the central phase within the cardiac cycle was determined according to patient HR and HRV (1: a diastolic acquisition for patients with HR below 80 bpm; 2: a systolic acquisition for patients with HR above 80 bpm; 3: a widened acquisition window for patients with HR higher than 80 bpm or HR variability defined as variable or irregular; 4: a shifting acquisition window towards the end of the R-R interval on the ECG with increasing HR), resulting in a total of 15 acquisition scenarios automatically selected based on the patient's ECG.

The image analysis conducted by two independent radiologists – in terms of diagnostic performance, artifacts, noise and artery visualization on a 4-point scale (from 1: non-diagnostic to 4: excellent) – revealed that all CCTAs performed were adequate to fully answer the clinical question using an effective dose inferior to 1 mSv ( $0.97 \pm 0.34$  mSv). 47 exams presented good or excellent image quality for diagnosis and 3 were scored as adequate; no exam was considered not assessable (mean score of 3.6 for all segments). Very weak to no correlation was found between image quality and mean HR ( $r = -0.19$ ;  $P = 0.19$ ) or HRV ( $r = -0.16$ ;  $P = 0.27$ ).

## Publication conclusion

For the first time in a pediatric population, the COROPEDIA clinical trial demonstrated the feasibility of using Unlimited 1-Beat CCTA for pediatric patients with coronary artery anomalies, with submillisievert radiation dose<sup>34</sup>.

## 6-year-old pediatric patient with left coronary reimplantation at BPM 154

### Acquisition

Scan Type	1-Beat Cardiac with 120 mm collimation
Gating, %	30 – 80
BPM	154
Rotation time, s	0.28
Slice, mm	0.625
TrueFidelity	High
Kernel	HD Standard
Contrast	
ml – mg/ml	25 - 350
kV	80
CTDIvol, mGy	3.32
DLP, mGy-cm	46.43
Eff. dose mSv	0.84
k, *DLP	0.018

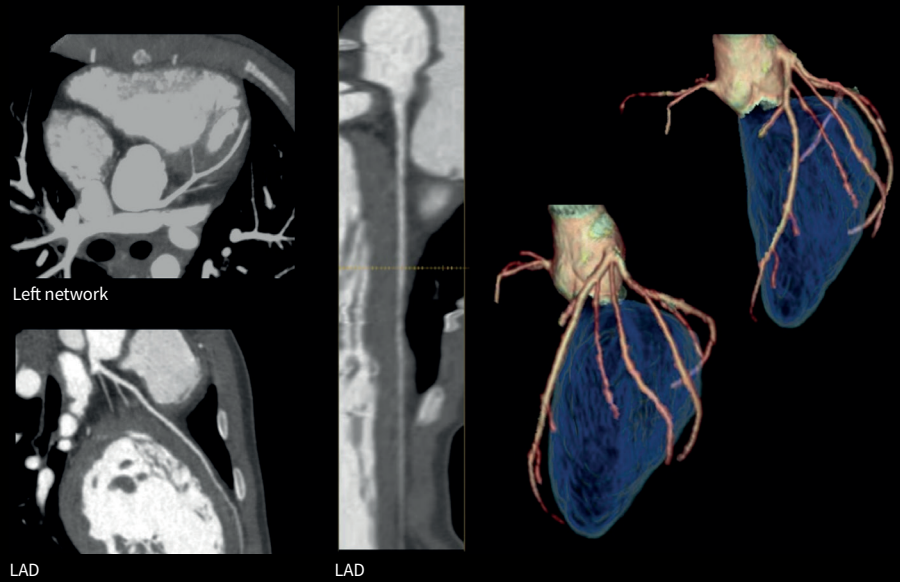


Figure 7. Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac for post-surgery evaluation of the left coronary reimplantation in a 6-year-old pediatric patient with the left coronary originated from the trunk of the pulmonary arteries.

Images courtesy of Pr Alison, Robert Debré University Hospital, Paris, France

# Improve diagnostic performance in patients with functionally significant CAD

CCTA has been established as the first-line test to evaluate stable CAD based on its high sensitivity for the identification of significant coronary stenoses and excellent negative predictive value for ruling out obstructive CAD in stable patients with chest pain. It is, however, less robust in specificity and positive predictive value to evaluate functionally significant CAD with intermediate stenoses (30%-90% diameter stenosis)<sup>35</sup>.

In this regard, CT-derived hemodynamic assessment tools such as CT perfusion (CTP; Figure 8) and CT derived Fractional Flow Reserve (FFRct) have been developed as potential strategies to combine anatomic and functional evaluation in a single scan to improve diagnostic performance of cardiac CT in patients with functionally significant CAD.

Pontone et al. conducted a study using the whole-heart-coverage Revolution CT scanner to investigate the diagnostic performance of stress CTP to detect functionally significant CAD in consecutive intermediate- to high- risk symptomatic patients in comparison to ICA and invasive fractional flow reserve (FFR) as the reference standard<sup>36</sup>. In 100 consecutive patients (mean age:  $66 \pm 9$  years; mean BMI:  $26.8 \pm 4$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>) scheduled for ICA who underwent rest CCTA (mean HR during acquisition:  $62.7 \pm 9$  bpm) followed by stress static CTP (mean HR during acquisition:  $76.1 \pm 14$  bpm); including perfusion imaging significantly improved ( $p < .02$  or less) the specificity, the positive predictive value and the accuracy for detecting functionally significant CAD on both per vessel and per patient levels by 18% and 29% (94% with vs. 76% without CTP and 83% with vs. 54% without CTP); 23% and 18% (86% with vs. 63% without CTP and 86% with vs. 68% without CTP) and 10% and 15% (93% with vs. 83% without CTP and 91% with vs. 76% without CTP), respectively.

With the initial evidence, Pontone et al. continued the investigation by conducting a prospective study to compare the diagnostic performance of CCTA+stress CTP, FFRct+CCTA, and CCTA+CTP+FFRct, in consecutive symptomatic CAD patients with intermediate and high-risks<sup>37</sup>.

85 consecutive symptomatic patients scheduled for ICA (mean age:  $64.6 \pm 8.2$  years; mean BMI:  $26.7 \pm 4.5$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>) prospectively underwent rest CCTA (mean HR during acquisition:  $60.2 \pm 8.1$  bpm), from which FFRct was measured, followed by stress dynamic CTP (mean HR during acquisition:  $86.5 \pm 13.1$  bpm). Adding either FFRct or CTP to the CCTA significantly improved the diagnostic accuracy of the CT exam (measured using the area under the ROC curve: 0.876 and 0.878, respectively, vs. 0.826 for CCTA alone;  $p < 0.05$ ). The sequential strategy of CCTA combined with both FFRct and CTP showed the highest area under the ROC curve (0.919;  $p < 0.05$ ).

The main finding of the study is that, while the addition of either FFRct or CTP to a CCTA exam can comparably improve cardiac CT's diagnostic performance to detect functionally significant CAD, CCTA combined with both FFRct and CTP can significantly further improve diagnostic performance, especially for patients with borderline FFRct results between 0.7 and 0.8. The study also found that CTP's radiation dose on whole-heart-coverage Revolution CT in this study was only around 5 mSv, approximately 50% less than the dose reported in literature using shuttle mode for dynamic CTP.

## Publication conclusion

A sequential strategy based on Unlimited 1-Beat CCTA followed by FFRct and myocardial perfusion imaging has the ability to provide a full overview of anatomical and functional aspects of CAD<sup>36</sup>.

# Improve diagnostic performance in patients with suspected In-Stent Restenosis or CAD progression

Diagnostic performance of CCTA for in-stent restenosis detection is still challenging due to artifacts caused by stent struts. Additionally, the use of FFRct has not been validated in clinical situations involving the presence of stents and therefore should not be applied in these cases<sup>38</sup>.

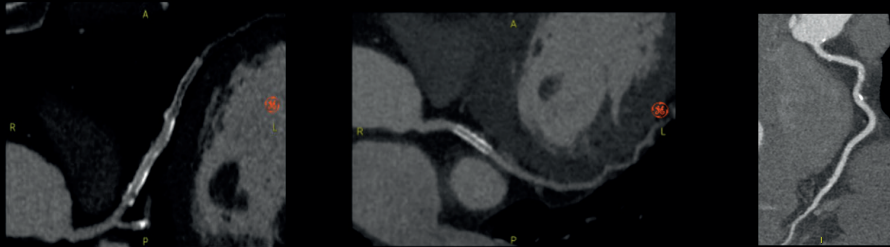
A study conducted by Liu et al. demonstrated that Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac with TrueFidelity deep-learning image reconstruction in high-resolution scanning mode could maintain a high spatial resolution while reducing metal artifacts and improving the clarity and visibility of the in-stent lumen<sup>39</sup>. Indeed, the evaluation of 76 stents from 47 patients (mean age: 67±10 years; mean HR: 75±27 bpm) revealed that the high level of True Fidelity led to a lower image noise (reduction of 36% and 42% in pre-stent and in-stent image noise compared to ASIR-V 50, respectively), an increased contrast-to-noise ratio (CNR) (71% and 60% in pre-stent and in-stent CNR compared to ASIR-V 50, respectively) an increased signal-to-noise (SNR) (51% and 57% in pre-stent and in-stent SNR compared to ASIR-V 50, respectively). Additionally, according to the two independent radiologists assessing the image quality of the exams, a high level of TrueFidelity reduced metal artifacts by 36% compared to ASIR-V 50 and yielded in-stent diameter measurements closest to the true value associated with sharper stent edges and clearer in-stent lumens.

Andreini et al. conducted the ADVANTAGE trial to investigate the potential value of combined coronary CTA + CTP assessment to additionally increase cardiac CT's diagnostic power in stented patients<sup>40</sup>. 150 stable patients with previous coronary stenting (total number of stents : 470) referred for ICA (mean age: 65.1 ± 9.1 years; mean BMI: 26.6 ± 3.6 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) underwent stress myocardial CTP (mean HR during acquisition: 82 [72.5 - 90]), rest CTP and CCTA (mean HR during acquisition: 60 [55 - 65]). The evaluation of the number of stents interpretable showed that the diagnostic rate of CCTA combined with CTP was significantly higher than the one of CCTA alone at stent (97.6% vs. 88.3%; p < 0.0001), territory (97.3% vs. 91.1%; p < 0.0001) and patient (97.3% vs. 68.1%; p < 0.0001) levels. In comparison to ICA defined as the gold standard, CTP's diagnostic accuracy was significantly higher than that of CCTA at territory (92.1% vs. 85.5%, p < 0.03) and patient (86.7% vs. 76.7%, p < 0.03) levels. The concordant coronary CCTA with CTP assessment further increased the diagnostic accuracy values in the territory (95.8%) and patient (92.8%) levels. Consequently, the trial demonstrated that in patients with coronary stents and suspected in-stent restenosis or progression of native CAD, CTP significantly improved the diagnostic performance of CCTA while maintaining the total examination at a relatively low radiation dose level (4.15 ± 1.5 mSv for CCTA, rest CTP and stress CTP) (Figure 8).

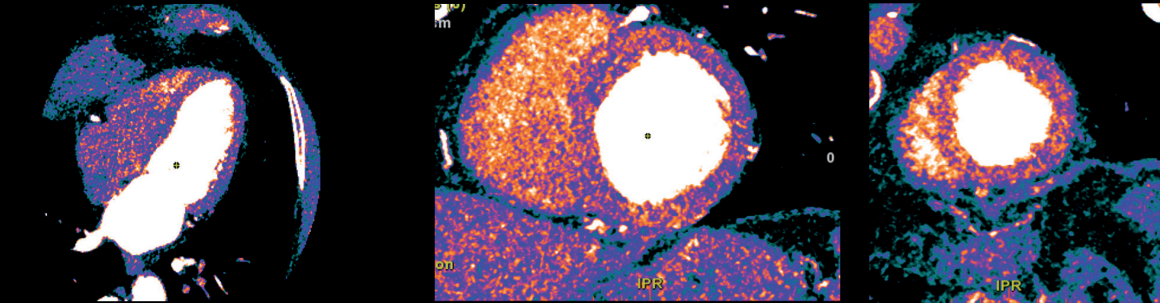
## Publication conclusion

For patients with coronary stents, Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac with high-resolution mode and TrueFidelity can improve the clarity and visibility of the in-stent lumen<sup>39</sup>; concordant with CTP can significantly improve overall diagnostic performance while maintaining relatively low radiation dose<sup>40</sup>.

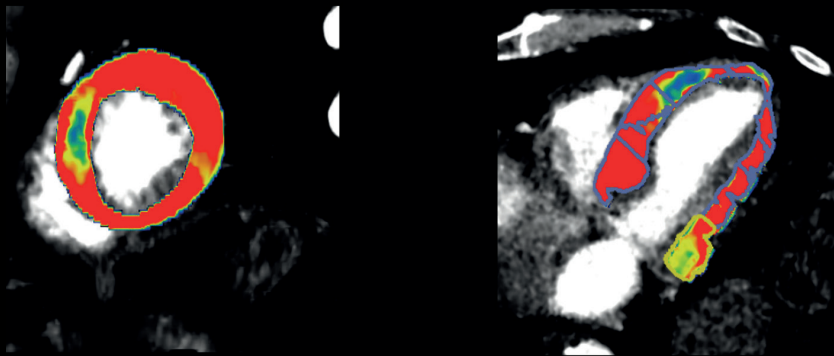
## Stented patient with a negative cycle ergometer stress test but a positive CT uncap perfusion



Occlusive intra-stent restenosis (ISR) of LAD stent; Patency of stent on LCX; Mild stenosis on RCA.



No perfusion defect at rest phase.



Dynamic CT perfusion showed pathological values of MBF in mid-apical anteroseptum.

**Figure 8.** An 80-year-old male with history of hypertension and revascularization with stents in LAD and LCX presented with typical angina. Treadmill test was negative. Unlimited 1-Beat CCTA depicted occlusive intra-stent restenosis of LAD stent. Dynamic CTP showed pathological values of MBF in mid-apical anteroseptum.

*Images courtesy of Dr. Mushtaq and Dr. Pontone, Centro Cardiologico Monzino, Milan, Italy.*

# Replace invasive coronary Angiography in treatment planning for patient with multivessel disease

Multivessel disease is defined as significant stenosis (>70%) in two or more major coronary arteries of 2.5 mm diameter or more. Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) has been primarily used for revascularization for multivessel disease since 1968. Recent technological and technical advancements in percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) techniques has broadened the treatment scope to now include patients with multivessel disease. Deciding between CABG and PCI should be made by consensus between cardiologists and cardiac surgeons. ICA has been the gold standard diagnostic method to guide revascularization decision. Nevertheless, one of the major remaining drawbacks of conventional coronary angiography is its invasive nature.

Over the past decade, there has been speculation regarding the possibility of CCTA replacing ICA for the guidance of revascularization procedures. The prospect of sending a patient to surgery based on a purely non-invasive CCTA assessment could potentially decrease medical complications, hospitalization days and costs related to medical treatment.

The SYNTAX III Revolution trial was the first prospective, randomized trial using Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac to investigate the role of a decision-making process regarding the revascularization strategy based on non-invasive imaging with CCTA in patients with complex multivessel disease<sup>41</sup>. Two separate heart teams assessed 223 patients with de novo left main or three-vessel CAD (mean age: 67.6 ± 8.9 years; mean BMI: 26.5 ± 3.7 kg/m<sup>2</sup>; mean HR: 54.6 ± 11.0 bpm) based either on CCTA or ICA to provide a treatment recommendation between CABG or PCI guided by SYNTAX score II. The trial concluded that clinical decision-making between CABG and PCI using Unlimited 1-beat CCTA had a high level of agreement with treatment decisions based on ICA (93% concordance and Cohen's kappa 0.82), a finding which prompted the hypothesis that CCTA might provide sufficient, or even superior, information to ICA in planning and performing CABG<sup>42</sup>.

To answer the question of "is it safe and feasible to completely skip ICA before CABG?", the FAST TRACK CABG trial was conducted to assess the feasibility and safety of planning and executing surgical revascularization based solely on 1-Beat Cardiac CCTA and associated FFRct in patients with complex coronary artery disease<sup>43</sup>. A CCTA heart team reviewed CT images and associated FFRct results from a cohort of 114 patients with chronic coronary syndrome and low surgical risk addressed for CABG (mean age: 65.9 ± 8.7 years; mean BMI: 26.8 ± 4.2 kg/m<sup>2</sup>; mean HR: 67.7 ± 11.9 bpm) to define treatment planning and surgical revascularization. The initial ICA was required for only one patient, which resulted in a feasibility rate of 99.1% for CABG guided by CCTA. The trial concluded that the planning and execution of CABG with the sole knowledge of anatomy from CCTA, and without any visual information from conventional ICA, in patients referred for CABG is feasible and deemed safe in a select population with chronic coronary syndrome and low surgical risk.

## Publication conclusion

Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac might provide sufficient, or even superior, information to ICA in planning and performing CABG<sup>42,43</sup>.

# One-stop TAVI/TAVR protocol with only one contrast medium injection

Transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI)/transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) procedures, as the treatment strategy for patients with symptomatic severe aortic stenosis, have grown in popularity and scope over the past two decades. TAVI/TAVR was originally only performed on patients at high surgical risk, but these procedures are now also indicated for patients at intermediate risk for conventional surgical valve replacement<sup>44</sup>.

In planning TAVI/TAVR procedures, Cardiac CT has become the gold standard non-invasive imaging tool for peripheral access planning, annular sizing, determination of risk of annular injury and coronary occlusion, and to provide co-planar fluoroscopic angle prediction in advance of the procedure.

Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac has provided one-stop TAVR/TAVI protocols, allowing mixed acquisitions with only one contrast medium injection: a prospectively ECG-gated 1-beat, whole-heart scan to cover the entire aortic root and heart, including coronary arteries, and non-ECG-gated axial or helical scans to cover the aorto/ilio/femoral vasculature. The protocols enable the holistic assessment of the aortic root, coronary arteries and peripheral vessels in the same exam with low iodine contrast medium use and low radiation dose, potentially leading to a reduction of unnecessary ICA in patients without CAD with a consequent reduction of cumulative iodine contrast medium volumes and the total cost for patient management (Figure 9).

Annoni et al. conducted a study including 115 patients (mean age  $82.5 \pm 6.2$  y, mean BMI  $26.7 \pm 3.6$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>) referred for TAVI to evaluate feasibility, image quality and diagnostic performance of these protocols<sup>45</sup>. They demonstrated that a low-contrast (50 ml of a 400 mg/mL agent) scan protocol for CT angiography using Revolution CT with Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac was safe, feasible and provided accurate information for pre-procedural TAVI planning determining patient eligibility, access strategy and prosthesis selection with very good image quality (median quality score value was  $>3$  on a 4-point visual scale) of both aorta and coronary arteries at an average total effective of about 6 mSv. It allowed an overall mean attenuation value  $>500$  HU of aortic segments, peripheral accesses and coronary arteries with high reproducibility of aortic annulus measurements and very good reliability for prosthesis sizing (100% procedural success rate). While high or irregular HR are frequently observed in TAVI candidates because of severe aortic stenosis or AF, the use of Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac in this study allowed clinicians to perform a scan of the whole heart volume during one heartbeat (0.8 s scan time), reducing the potential artifacts related to HR or movement, even in case of patients with AF (n = 15). It resulted in a segment-based level sensitivity, specificity, negative predictive value, positive predictive value and accuracy for the detection of  $>50\%$  stenosis of 97, 85, 99,62 and 88%, respectively, suggesting that ICA could be avoided in cases of insignificant CAD during pre-TAVI CT examination.

## Publication conclusion

Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac TAVI protocols allow the holistic assessment of the aortic root, coronary arteries and peripheral vessels in the same exam with low iodine contrast medium use and low radiation dose, potentially leading to a reduction of unnecessary ICA in patients without CAD and the total cost for patient management<sup>45</sup>.

## TAVI & CCTA

### Acquisition

Scan type	Axial Gated   Helical
Rotation time, s	0.28
Pitch	0.992
Slice, mm	0.625 mm
Reconstruction	TrueFidelity
kV	100 (CCTA) 120 (non-gated helical)
mA	1088 (CCTA) mA modulation for non-gated helical
Contrast	
ml	65 ml
mg/ml	350 mg/ml
DLP, mGy-cm	528
Eff. Dose, mSv	7.39

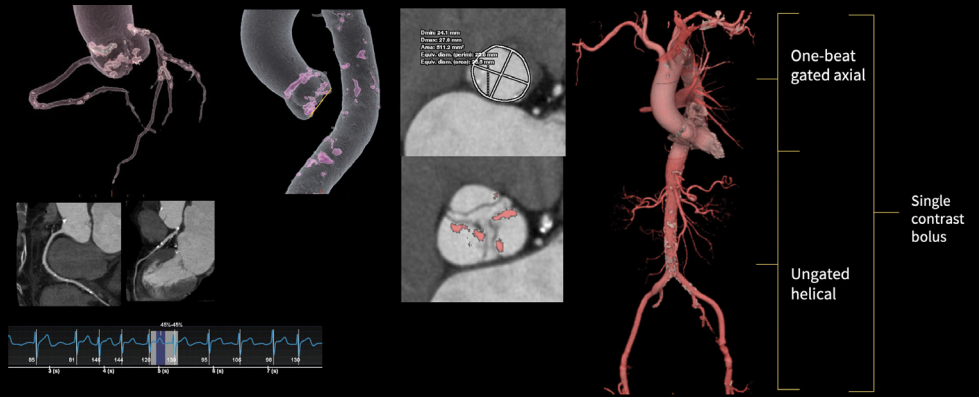


Figure 9. One-stop CT exam for TAVI planning with only one contrast medium injection in a patient with aortic stenosis. Electrocardiogram shows 1-Beat gated acquisition when patient HR was at 120 bpm to cover the entire aortic root and heart, including coronary arteries. Followed by ungated helical scan to cover the aorta/ilio/femoral vasculature. Complete exam was performed in a single contrast bolus, which was only 65 ml.

Images courtesy of Derriford Hospital – Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust

# Unleash the full potential with ECG-less Cardiac

Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac has been proven to elevate cardiac CT's diagnostic performance for patients with a wide range of clinical scenarios. Can we extend the benefits to patients with more challenging situations where cardiac CT is heavily needed but ECG tracing is not available?

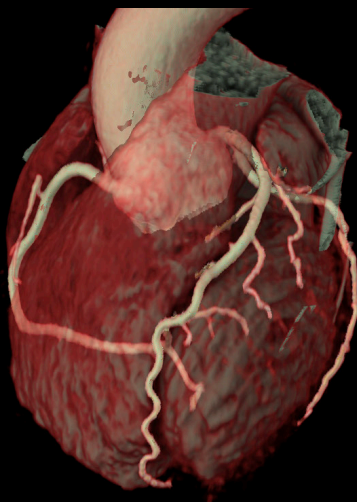
The answer is yes with ECG-less Cardiac, a breakthrough new cardiac CT solution that unleashes the full potential of Unlimited 1-Beat Cardiac.

ECG-less Cardiac uses a simulated R-peak based on the manually entered, estimated patient's HR, which is used to trigger the 1-Beat Cardiac scan to acquire data with a duration determined by the desired phase range of the heart. When a full heart cycle of image data is required, the start of the scan can be determined by contrast timing only, like other CTA exams. The duration of the scan is determined by the period of the patient's average estimated HR, measured prior to the scan.

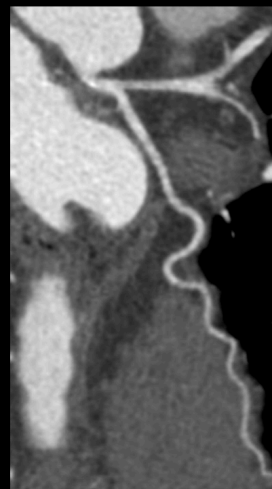
ECG-less Cardiac is applied in examinations where it is clinically advantageous to prioritize patient access or speed when the ECG signal is unavailable (Figure 10). Also, it is designed to address workflow challenges associated with patient prep – including skin prep, attaching ECG patches and grounding strap, ECG impedance check and ensuring the ECG trace is displayed on the operator console – that adds to the overall cardiac exam time.

## Clinical image

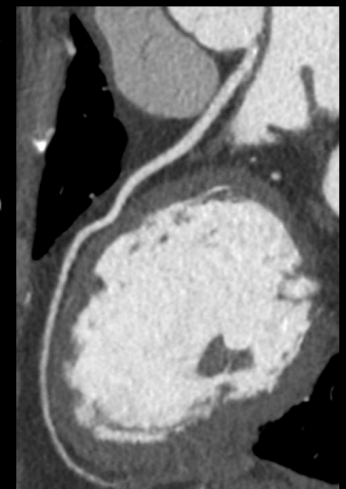
### ECG-less Cardiac for acute chest pain patient



RCA



LCX



LAD

Figure 10. ECG-less Cardiac allows exceptional CCTA without ECG trace in a patient with acute chest pain.

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