# Identifying variation and barriers to use of non-invasive cardiac imaging tests for suspected coronary heart disease

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| **Challenge** | **Coronary CT angiography has high specificity compared to other cardiac imaging tests and is low cost, though whether it is used appropriately vs. other tests has not been well evaluated in community-based populations.** |
| **Existing Evidence** | The relative use of different imaging modalities for patients with suspected coronary heart disease is unknown, such as : Myocardial Perfusion Imaging (MPI), coronary CT angiography (CCTA) and Stress Echo (SE). |
| **Target Population** | KPNC members with suspected coronary heart disease. |
| **Intervention or Exposure** | Use of different tests captured by a new KPNC CT angiography reporting platform. |
| **Outcomes/Key Findings** | **KPNC patients were more likely to receive an MPI than stress echo or coronary CCTA, resulting in potentially increased costs, since MPIs do not have clear diagnostic advantages over other modalities**. Survey results of KPNC regional chiefs and assistant chiefs of cardiology identified the main barrier for obtaining a CCTA was limited availability. The KPNC CTA Reporting Platform successfully provided standardized and comprehensive text reports to calculate patient risks and provide testing recommendations. |
| **Resulting Action/Change** | **The study informed the KPNC Coronary CT Angiography Reporting Platform, which launched region-wide December 2019, to guide broader appropriate use of this non-invasive method. The platform was customized to KPNC-specific needs and automatically calculates CAD-RADS and MESA Risk scores to provide guidelines consistent with national recommendations.** |
| **Additional recommendations** | The study provides baseline information to evaluate future impact of implementing this risk stratification and guidelines. Dissemination of this information broadly to relevant clinicians can increase use of this technology and the risk stratification tools. |
| **Implementation Tools** | KPNC CTA Reporting Platform. |
| **Follow-Up Implementation Measurement** | MPI, CCTA or SE test utilization. |
| **Reference(s) [Key Figure if applicable]** | Internal Report |