

# THE PROGNOSTIC IMPLICATIONS OF NON-OBSTRUCTIVE CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE

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**Abstract:** *Non-obstructive coronary artery disease is a frequent finding in patients undergoing coronary angiography. Our aim was to assess potential coronary events risk in non-obstructive coronary artery disease patients. Methods: We conducted an historical prospective cohort trial that analyzed 429 patients with non-obstructive coronary artery disease and 424 control patients with normal coronaries. Baseline characteristics, as well as major cardiac events during follow-up (30±8 months) were compared. Results: non-obstructive coronary artery disease patients were older, had more diabetes, more hypertension and more chronic renal failure. They also more often had a history of myocardial infarction and of heart failure. During follow-up, non-obstructive coronary artery disease was associated with higher rates of unstable angina, stroke, death and a combined end point of unstable angina, stroke, myocardial infarction or death. On multivariate analysis the presence of non-obstructive coronary artery disease was independently associated with the combined adverse outcome. Conclusions: non-obstructive coronary artery disease patients have a higher frequency of atherosclerotic risk factors, associated cardiovascular disorders and adverse clinical events in comparison to normal coronaries patients. Over mid term follow-up, non-obstructive coronary artery disease is an independent predictor of risk for major cardiac events.*

**Key words:** *Ischemic heart disease, non obstructive coronary artery disease, natural history, prognosis.*

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