



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE SOCIETY OF CARDIOVASCULAR COMPUTED  
TOMOGRAPHY HOSTS SUMMIT TO DISCUSS COVERAGE OF  
CARDIOVASCULAR COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY**

Washington, D.C. (December 12, 2008) The Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography (SCCT) hosted a one-day conference on Dec. 4, to review with private and public healthcare payers current evidence to support appropriate use of cardiovascular CT angiography (CCTA).

During the summit, representatives from SCCT presented payers with results and data from completed studies involving CCTA and discussed current studies in progress. The payers recognized the body of data already in place and were interested to hear about patient registries and randomized clinical trials currently being conducted. In particular, they expressed favorable impressions with a normal CCTA scan's potential to eliminate unnecessary catheterization.

A registry currently being undertaken by SCCT in cooperation with the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and the American College of Radiology (ACR) generated an enthusiastic response from payers, as did a large head- to- head randomized clinical trial comparing stress imaging to CCTA in symptomatic patients with suspected coronary artery

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disease (CAD). There has also been significant progress in the randomized trials of CCTA in the Emergency Department (E.D.) and the payers agreed that there may soon be enough information available to set up coverage for CCTA in an E.D. setting.

The summit also helped to determine where further evidence development is necessary to extend coverage of CCTA. Payers explained they have raised the bar for coronary CTA and an improvement in patient outcomes should be established before widespread coverage is put into place.

“This meeting represents a substantial step forward in extending coverage for appropriately used cardiovascular CT angiography,” said cardiac imager, Daniel S. Berman, M.D., SCCT president and Chief of Cardiac Imaging and Nuclear Cardiology at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. “With improved communication between payers and researchers, we will continue to build our case and ensure that this revolutionary imaging modality is available to all patients for whom the test is appropriate.”

Also in attendance was Jack Ziffer, M.D., SCCT president-elect. “Last Thursday we gained a better understanding of what must be done in order to ensure that those patients who may benefit from cardiac CT have financial access,” Dr. Ziffer said. “An essential facet of the SCCT mission is to advocate for appropriate use of cardiovascular CT.

Interactions with the healthcare industry and the information shared and relationships built as a result of this summit will aid us in accomplishing that task.”

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### About the Society for Cardiovascular Computed Tomography

(SCCT) is the recognized representative and advocate for physicians, scientists, and technologists who work in the field of cardiovascular computed tomography. With a membership of over 4,000, it is nationally and internationally viewed as the principal independent organization committed to the further development of cardiovascular

computed tomography through education, training, accreditation, quality control, and research. For more information on the Society's Mission and Goals, please see the SCCT Website at: [www.SCCT.org](http://www.SCCT.org).