SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

Cardiac CT Protocol

If a patient’s heart rate was > 75 beats/min, 2.5 mg of oral bisoprolol (Concor, Merck, Darmstadt, Germany) was administered; if not, oral bisoprolol was contraindicated. A bolus of 60–80 mL of nonionic, iodinated, intravenous contrast material (Iomeron, Bracco Imaging SpA, Milan, Italy) was injected using a power injector (Stellant D, Medrad, Indianola, PA, USA) at 4.0 mL/s. Immediately after that, 40 mL of a 70:30 mixture of saline and contrast agent was injected. A scan was performed using the bolus tracking method, i.e., ascending aorta; trigger threshold level, 100 HU; scan delay, 8 seconds. Retrospective electrocardiogram-gated cardiac CT was obtained: manual 20–70% of the R-R interval with 20% tube current modulation in the lower phases. The tube current–time product and tube voltage were adjusted for the patient’s body size. The scan parameters are as follows: tube voltage, 80–120 kV; tube current, 160–360 mAs; pitch, 0.17–0.38; detector collimation, 64 x 0.6 mm; and gantry rotation time, 280 ms. The mean ± standard deviation of the dose-length product for CT scanning was 1159.3 ± 678.9 mGy·cm, and the mean effective dose was 16.2 ± 9.5 mSv. The dose-length product and effective dose values in our patients were higher than those for cardiac CT because the entire thorax and abdomen were scanned for preoperative whole aorta evaluation.