

Reporting Nuclear Cardiology. A position statement by the European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM) and the European Council of Nuclear Cardiology (ECNC)

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Introduction

- The report of an imaging procedure is the final and often the only communication from the interpreter to the treating health care provider. It may occasionally may become legal evidence.
- Few recommendations or guidelines on reporting imaging studies are available.
- Lack of evidence regarding the effect of different types of reports on clinical outcome is an important limitation for giving strong recommendations.
- A European position statement on how to report nuclear cardiology will soon be published. It combines existing evidence with expert consensus, previously published recommendations as well as current clinical practices.
- The statement includes several modalities as well as recommended terminology, comments on image display and preliminary reports.

Conclusions

- Standardization, well structured reports using good language and correct terminology of the reports, accompanied by relevant and standardized image display, will hopefully improve the clinical value of nuclear cardiology for physicians and patients.
- The statement may facilitate and improve research in nuclear cardiology.
- Recommendations are neither infallible, nor should they substitute for good clinical judgment.

List of Content

- Introduction
- Terminology to be used in the report
- Structured reports
- Images accompanying the report
- The preliminary report
- Myocardial perfusion imaging
- Viability
- Hybrid imaging
- MIBG
- Blood pool imaging

Headlines of a section

MYOCARDIAL PERFUSION IMAGING

- Demographics
- Clinical indications
- Stress testing data
- Tracer administration
- Image acquisition
- Image interpretation
- Conclusion of the report
- Date and signature

Text example

Conclusion of the MPI report

The conclusion must address and answer the clinical question the referring or treating health care provider has stated. A clear statement whether the study is normal, abnormal or non-diagnostic must be included. The presence of perfusion defects and whether they are...

Text example

Preliminary reports

They are typically given in order to direct immediate patient management, may be written, transmitted electronically, or given verbally. It is not expected to include all information of the final report. The person responsible for the preliminary communication must assure the receipt of it...