Value of Echo in Clinical Cardiology:
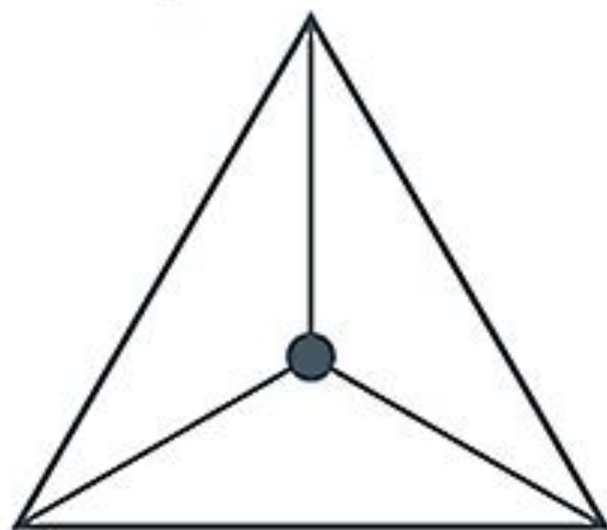## CAD Detection

Pamela S. Douglas, MD, MACC, FASE, FAHA

CAD Detection: General Principles

- The problem: > 20 million stress tests performed each year in US.

- Quality and value start with appropriateness. No test can be better than any test.

- The decision to test is an important and necessary precursor to choosing the type of test.

- The value of a test is only as good as the information provided, and only as good as the incorporation of that information into care.

The IHI Triple Aim

Value of Echo in CAD Detection: Population Health

- Accuracy for detection of CAD equals or exceeds other forms of stress tests

- Equally accurate in men and women

- Can be performed using exercise or pharmacologic stress

- Provides additional information regarding heart and valve function which may be the cause of symptoms such as shortness of breath

Value of Echo in CAD Detection: Experience of Care

- No radiation: esp important for young women and for those requiring repeated testing

- Single visit - no return for reperfusion scan

- Accessible - most CV offices and all hospitals have stress echo capability

- Patient satisfaction or QOL ??

Value of Echo in CAD Detection: Per Capita Cost

- Lowest cost of any of the imaging stress tests

- Dominates non-imaging tests in CEA's

- Eliminates need for two studies or test layering in some scenarios (one stress, one rest for heart and valve function)

- Safety (late downstream costs)