Abstract:
The working group Cardiovascular Nuclear Medicine of the German Society of Nuclear Medicine (DGN), in cooperation with the working group Nuclear Cardiology of the German Cardiac Society (DGK), decided to conduct a national survey on myocardial perfusion scintigraphy (MPS). METHOD: A questionnaire to evaluate MPS for the year 2005 was sent. RESULTS: 346 completed questionnaires had been returned (213 private practices, 99 hospitals and 33 university hospitals). MPS of 112,707 patients were reported with 110,747 stress and 95,878 rest studies. The majority (>75%) was performed with $(99m)$Tc-MIBI or tetrofosmin. $(201)$Tl stress-redistribution was used in 22,637 patients (20%). The types of stress were exercise in 78%, vasodilation with adenosine or dipyridamol in 21% and dobutamine in 1%. 99.97% of all MPS were SPECT studies. Gated SPECT was performed in 36% of the stress and in 32% of the rest studies. An attenuation correction was used in 21%. 29 institutions (8%) performed gated SPECT (stress and rest) and attenuation correction. 47% of all MPS were requested by ambulatory care cardiologists, 17% by internists, 12% by primary care...
physicians, 21% by hospital departments and 2% by others. CONCLUSION: In Germany, MPS is predominantly performed with (99m)Tc-perfusion agents. The common type of stress is ergometry. Gated SPECT and attenuation correction do not yet represent standards of MPS practice in Germany, which indicates some potential of optimization.