

## Value of radionuclide studies in cardiac transplantation

Albert FLOTATS and Ignasi CARRIÓ

*Department of Nuclear Medicine, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain*

Effective noninvasive evaluation of acute and chronic allograft rejection remains an important challenge in patients with cardiac transplantation. Radionuclide studies have demonstrated utility because of their ease of use, giving relevant information about the pathophysiology of the transplanted heart, along with valuable diagnostic and prognostic indicators. This article focuses on reviewing the pathophysiological changes of the transplanted heart and implications for radionuclide studies.

**Key words:** cardiac transplantation, radionuclide imaging of necrosis and apoptosis, myocardial perfusion scintigraphy, positron emission tomography, radionuclide imaging of sympathetic innervation