

## APPENDIX A.—GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- Angina pectoris:** a condition characterized by severe transient chest pains, typically precipitated by exertion or excitement and relieved by rest.
- Arrhythmia:** any variation from the normal rhythm of the heart beat.
- Arteriography:** the radiologic (X-ray) visualization of the blood vessels following the injection of a contrast dye.
- Cardiac catheterization:** passage of a small catheter through a vein or artery into the heart for purposes of securing blood samples, determining intracardiac pressures, and detecting cardiac anomalies.
- Cardiac ejection fraction:** the amount of blood ejected during a heart beat.
- Cardiac radionuclide imaging:** the imaging of the heart by the detection of radioactivity in the heart muscle or heart chambers following the injection of a radionuclide or radiopharmaceutical.
- Coronary arteries:** arteries that supply blood to the heart.
- Coronary arteriography (coronary angiography):** arteriography of the coronary arteries.
- Coronary artery disease (coronary heart disease):** narrowing or blockage of the coronary arteries, usually which results in reduced blood flow to the heart muscle.
- Coronary artery bypass surgery:** a surgical procedure in which a vein or an artery is used to bypass a constricted portion of one or more coronary arteries. This procedure has become the primary surgical approach to the treatment of coronary artery disease.
- Echocardiography:** a method of imaging the heart walls and internal structures of the heart by the echo obtained from beams of ultrasonic waves directed through the heart wall.
- Effectiveness:** same as efficacy (see below) except that it refers to "average conditions of use."
- Efficacy:** benefit achieved in a defined population from a medical technology applied for a given medical problem under ideal conditions of use.
- Electrocardiogram (EKG):** a graphic tracing of the changes of electrical potential of the heart occurring during each heartbeat; usually performed with the patient supine and at rest.
- Exercise tolerance testing (exercise stress testing):** testing the response of the heart to exercise while observing the EKG and other physiological functions of the heart.
- Half-life:** the time required for the activity of a given quantity of radioactive material to decay to half its initial value.
- Infarct:** **an** area of necrosis (death) of tissue resulting from the obstruction of blood supply.
- Intracardiac shunt:** an abnormality of blood flow between the sides of the heart.
- Ischemia:** insufficient blood supply to meet the full physiologic needs of the tissue for oxygen (but short of the degree of ischemia that results in necrosis).
- Ischemic heart disease:** coronary artery disease of sufficient severity to result in angina pectoris or myocardial infarction.
- Myocardial infarction:** necrosis (death) of tissue in the myocardium (heart muscle) that results from insufficient blood supply to the heart. A transmural myocardial infarction involves the entire thickness of the myocardium, while a nontransmural infarction involves only part of the wall.
- Myocardium:** muscle of the heart.
- Nonischemic heart disease:** heart disease from causes other than coronary artery disease (e. g., congenital heart disease, rheumatic heart disease, myocardiopathy).
- Posterior probability of a disease:** the probability that a disease exists after the results of a given test are known.
- Prior probability of a disease:** the probability that a disease exists before the results of a given test are known.
- Radionuclide or radiopharmaceutical:** a radioactive substance.
- Radionuclide ventriculogram:** **an** image of the chambers (ventricles) of the heart obtained by detection of radioactivity following the injection of a radionuclide or radiopharmaceutical.
- Sensitivity of a diagnostic test:** proportion of all persons with a given disease whose tests results are positive (true-positive rate).
- Specificity of a diagnostic test:** proportion of all persons without a given disease whose results are negative (true-negative rate).
- Ventricle:** chamber of the heart.
- Ventricular angiogram:** a radiologic image of the ventricles of the heart obtained following the injection of a contrast dye.
- Ventriculography:** imaging of the ventricles of the heart.