

Table 2

Factors affecting accuracy of diagnosis of CVD in women

- Endogenous oestrogen in premenopausal women may cause ST-segment changes resulting in false-positive exercise tolerance tests
- Angina and ischaemia vary with the menstrual cycle
- Inability to reach adequate heart rate in exercise tolerance tests or stress testing may impede diagnosis of ischaemia. If > 5 METS cannot be achieved then pharmacological stress testing should be used
- The lower prevalence of disease in premenopausal women results in a lower accuracy of stress testing when compared with men
- *Resting ST-T wave changes*
Reduces the accuracy of identifying changes at peak stress
ACC/AHA guidelines recommend cardiac imaging in individuals with resting ST-T wave changes on the ECG
- *Lower QRS voltage*
Affects the diagnostic accuracy of investigations in women

ACC = American College of Cardiology AHA = American Heart Association MET = metabolic equivalent