Pulmonary embolism (PE) is a condition that occurs when a clot migrates into a pulmonary artery, blocking the perfusion within the territory of the affected lung. The blockage can be caused by one or more clots that travel to the lungs from different parts of the body.

CT is the primary method for identifying a PE, however small PEs are often difficult to identify on a conventional CT scan. A perfusion map of the lungs can add valuable diagnostic insight to a PE scan.

The spectral perfusion map, using results such as iodine-based images and Z effective, can help assess the hemodynamic significance of the PE, thereby adding additional clinical insights to aid in the diagnosis of the PE. Because spectral data is always on with every scan on the IQon Spectral CT, these results are always available to the clinician, providing a significant opportunity to positively impact the treatment path for the patient.
A contrast-enhanced chest exam using 60 cc of iodinated contrast (350 mg/cc) at 120 kVp was performed on a patient with chronic renal insufficiency and hepatitis. In addition to standard CT-angiography images, spectral data was reconstructed for the patient. While CT-angiography showed the clot in a sub-segmental artery, fused iodine density images demonstrated a perfusion defect in the right lower lung demonstrating the hemodynamic significance of the embolism in the right lower lung.

**Scan data**

$\text{CTDI} = 3.4 \text{ mGy} \cdot \text{DLP} = 128 \text{ mGy} \cdot \text{cm}$
An elderly patient complaining of chest pain and dyspnea (shortness of breath) was scanned using the IQon Spectral CT. Scans showed a PE in the right lower lung not originally identified prospectively by radiologists and the PE CAD. Radiologists then reviewed the fused Z effective spectral results, which demonstrated a perfusion defect in the right lower lung. This allowed radiologists to retrospectively identify the small PE on the MonoE 40 keV in the right lower lung corresponding to the perfusion defect.

**Scan data**

- CTDI = 4.4 mGy
- DLP = 122.3 mGy•cm

*Fused Z effective images demonstrating the perfusion defect in the right lower lung.*
Case study 3

University of Cologne
Cologne, Germany

A middle-aged male with lung cancer had a follow-up scan on the IQon Spectral CT to evaluate tumor size. The conventional image and the 48 keV MonoE image showed an incidental large PE in the right middle lung.

Fused Z effective spectral results helped the clinician identify not only the perfusion deficit from the PE, but also a perfusion defect near the left lung lesion post-therapy.

**Scan data**

CTDI = 9.1 mGy • DLP = 652.6 mGy•cm

**Conventional CT and MonoE 48 keV images show a PE in the right lung.**

**Conclusion**

Spectral results of the IQon Spectral CT provide the opportunity to utilize additional clinical insights for identification of a pulmonary embolism (PE). Because a PE is not always visible on conventional CT scans, the ability to visualize perfusion defects can help lead to a clinical diagnosis of a PE. Iodine-based and Z effective fused spectral results can help the clinician visualize the perfusion defect in lung parenchyma to evaluate the hemodynamic significance of a PE. Additionally, the low mono-energetic images can boost contrast enhancement to help the clinician identify subtle and small pulmonary emboli in segmental and sub-segmental arteries. These PE cases help to demonstrate the unique capabilities of the IQon Spectral CT, including the ability to prospectively or retrospectively provide clinical results to assist in a clinical diagnosis.

**Clinical relevance**

In patients with suspicion of pulmonary embolism, the Philips IQon Spectral CT improves diagnostic confidence by allowing assessment of hemodynamic significance of a PE.