Advanced Echocardiographic analysis in Hypertensive patients

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Introduction

Hypertension is a major and correctable cardiovascular risk factor. The correct diagnosis of hypertension and precise assessment of cardiovascular risk are essential to give proper treatment in patients with hypertension.

Echocardiography gives many clues suggesting bad prognosis associated with hypertension, including increased left ventricular (LV) mass, decreased LV systolic function, impaired LV diastolic function, and increased left atrial size and decreased function.

Recommendations of echocardiography in the current hypertension guidelines

In the 2013 ESH/ESC Guidelines for the management of arterial hypertension recommended performing echocardiographic examination in patients who are suspected with having left ventricular hypertrophy (LVH), left atrial (LA) dilatation, or concomitant heart diseases.

What are the clinical situations when the echocardiography is recommended in the evaluation and treatment of arterial hypertension??

Clinical situations when the echocardiography is recommended in the evaluation and treatment of arterial hypertension

Clinical situations	Signs
Heart failure is suspected	-Symptoms: exertional dyspnea, orthopnea, generalized edema, etc.
	-Abnormal physical examination: cardiac murmurs, pretibial pitting edema, etc.
	-Abnormal ECG results: left ventricular hypertrophy, left atrial enlargement, left bundle branch block, pathologic Q waves, poor R progression, atrial fibrillation etc.
	-Abnormal chest X-ray findings: cardiomegaly, pulmonary edema, pleural effusion, etc.

Structural heart disease is
suspected

-Symptoms: exertional dyspnea, orthopnea, etc.

-Abnormal physical examination: cardiac murmurs, pretibial pitting edema, etc.

-Abnormal ECG results: left ventricular hypertrophy, right ventricular hypertrophy, left atrial enlargement, right atrial enlargement, etc.

-Abnormal chest X-ray findings: cardiomegaly, pulmonary edema, pleural effusion, etc.

Ischemic heart disease is suspected -Symptoms: typical chest pain, exertional dyspnea, etc.

-Abnormal ECG results: significant ST changes, pathologic Q wave, etc.

Echocardiographic evaluations

_Evaluation of LV mass and geometry

conventional echocardiography

LV mass (gram) =
$$0.8 \times 1.04 \times [(LVIDd+PWTd+SWTd)^3 - LVIDd^3] + 0.6$$

$$RWT = (2 \times PWTd)/LVIDd$$

Relative Wall Thickness (RWT)

NORMAL

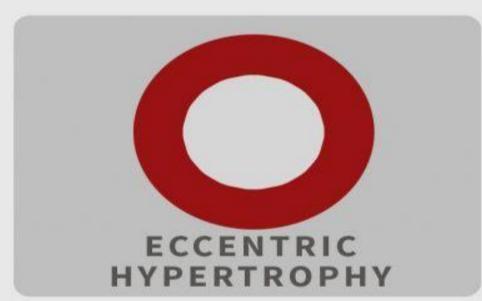
INCREASED

INCREASED

NORMAL











Left Ventricular Mass (LVM)

3D echocardiography

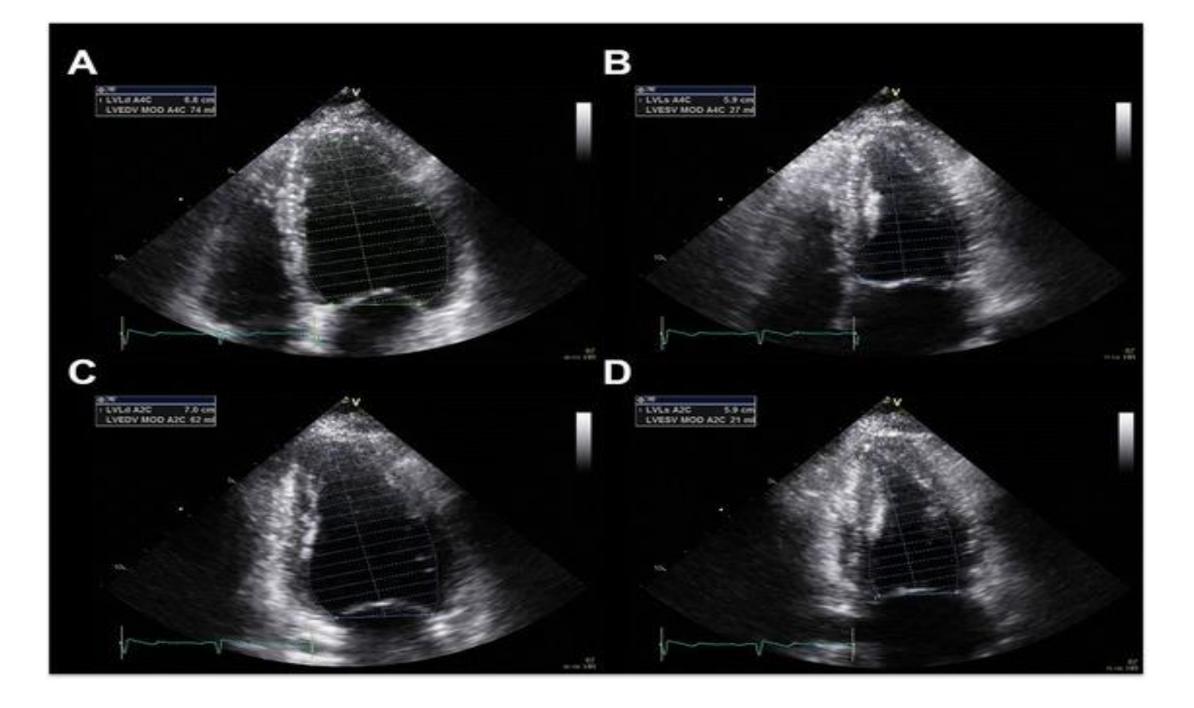
Three-dimensional echocardiography provides more precise measurements theoretically. Real-time three-dimensional echocardiographic measurement of LV mass showed an excellent correlation with measurement by magnetic resonance imaging

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Left ventricular systolic function

- # Conventional echocardiography
- _ M-mode
- _modified Simpson's method
- #3D echocardiography

Three-dimensional echocardiographic measurements have been shown high degree of agreement with the measurements by cardiac magnetic resonance imaging.

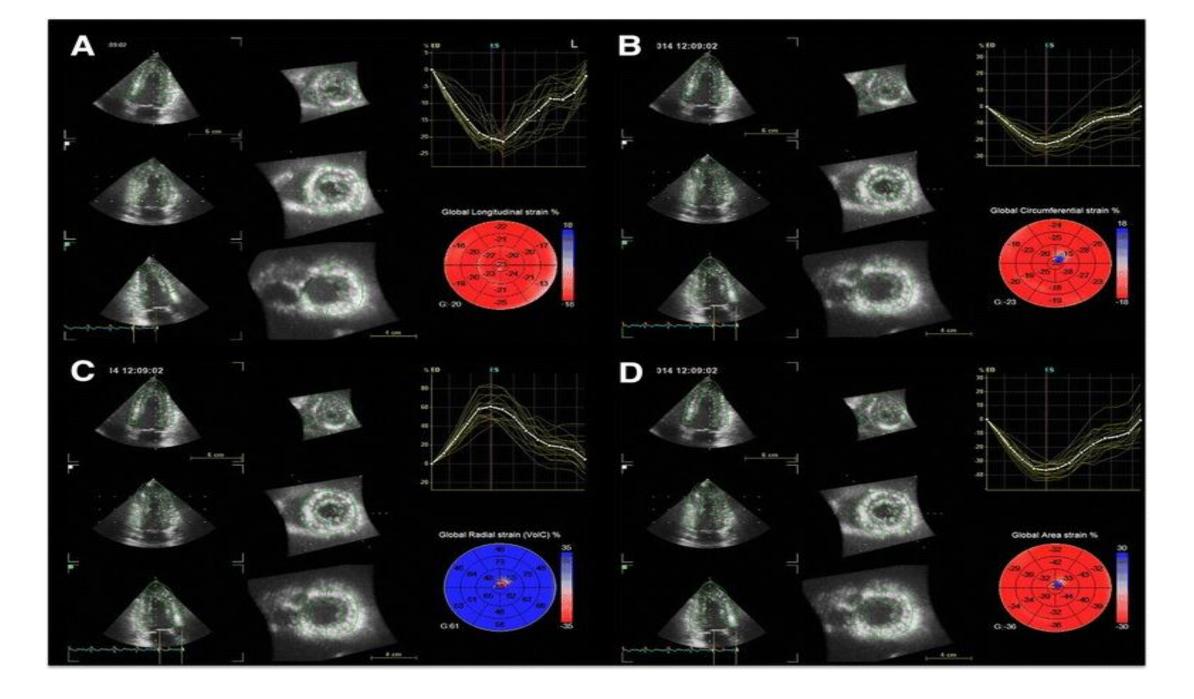


Tissue Doppler imaging

Tissue Doppler imaging is the new echocardiographic modality to measure mitral annular movement. Mitral annular velocity was decreased in hypertensive patients with normal ejection fraction, and it can be used to detect subclinical LV systolic dysfunction.

Two-dimensional speckle-tracking echocardiography

Myocardial strain can detect subclinical organ damage earlier than other conventional echocardiographic parameters



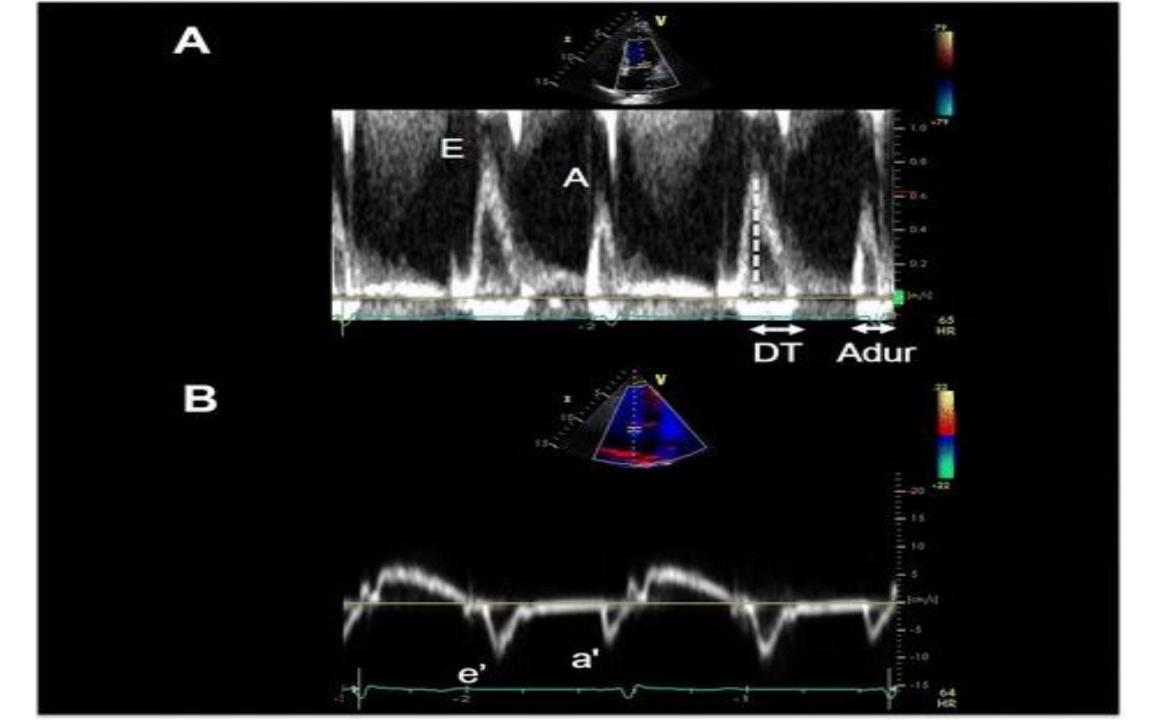
Left ventricular diastolic function

• Mitral inflow pattern; E, A and E/A ratio

• Mitral annular velocity; e', a'

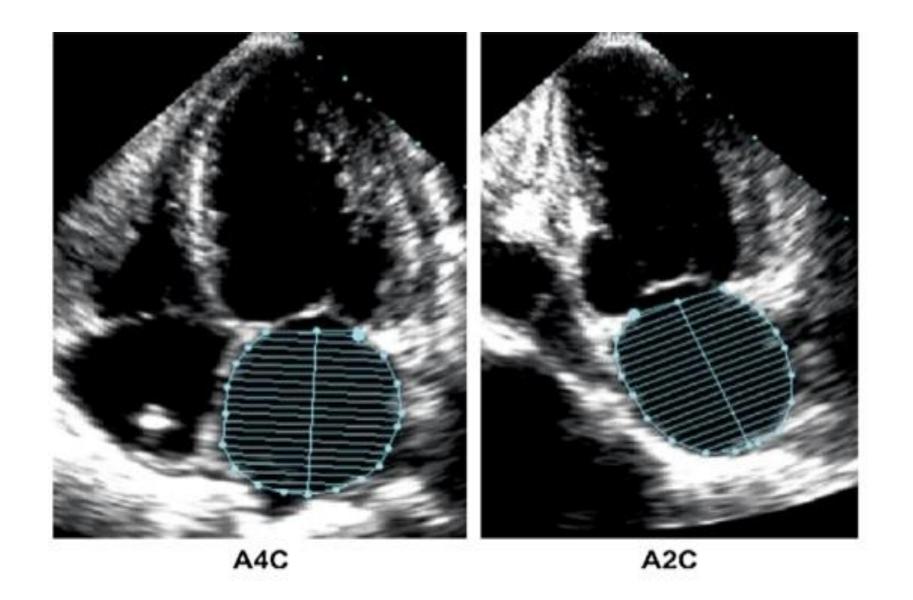
• IVRT

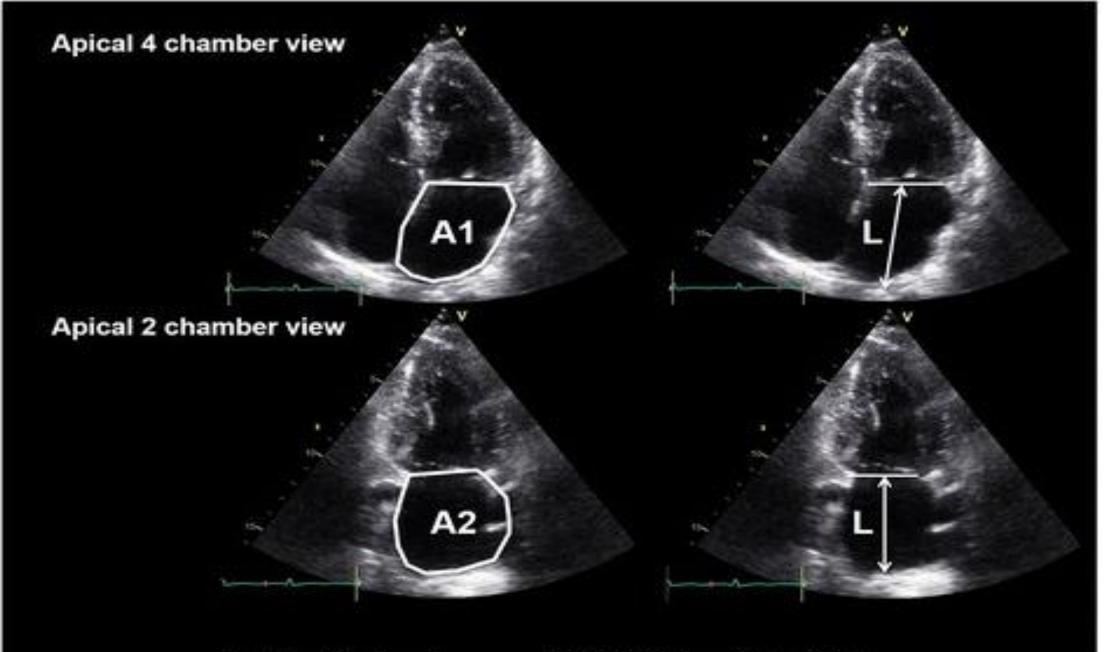
• E/e' ratio to assess LV filling pressure



Left atrial size and function

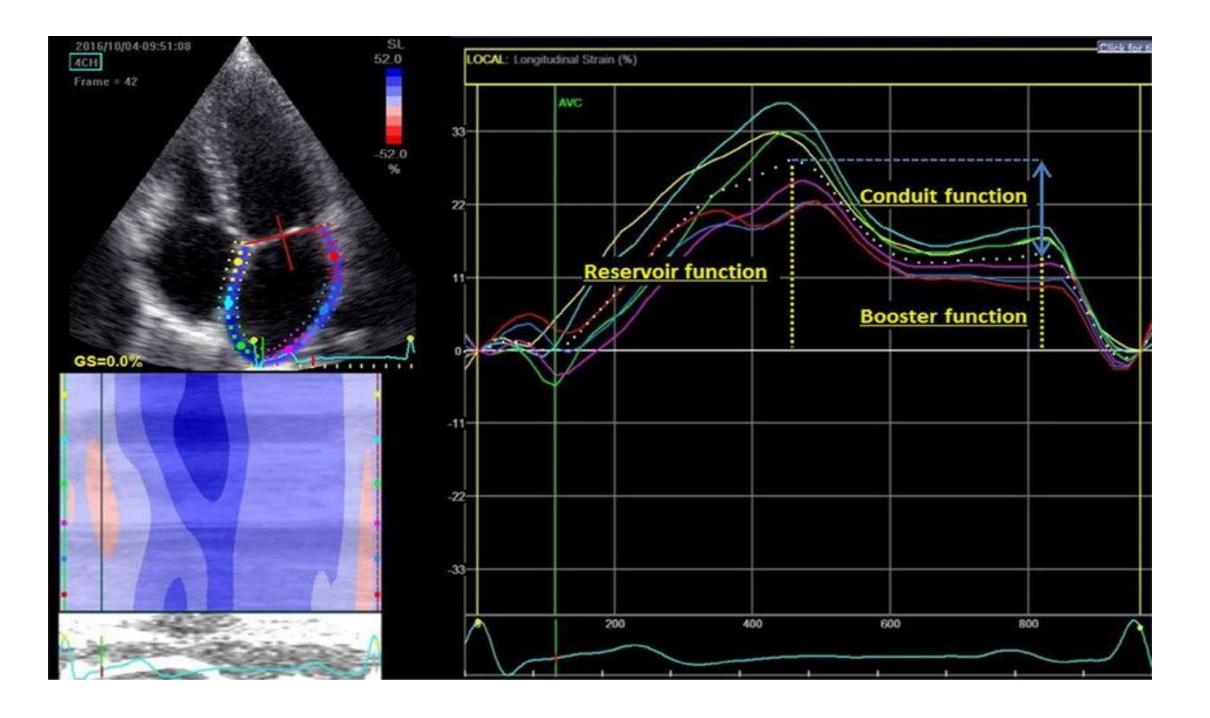
- LA enlargement is commonly associated with systemic arterial hypertension in patients without significant valvular heart disease.
- Increased LA size and volume can reflect the diastolic dysfunction in hypertensive patients and can be used as one of indicators of cardiovascular morbidity and mortality

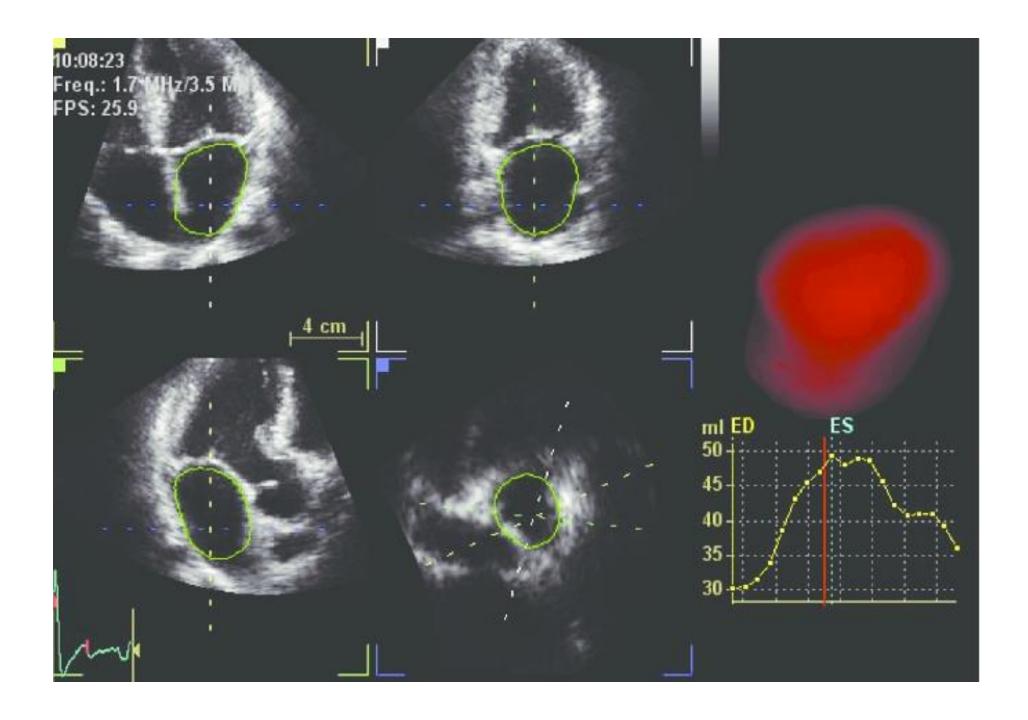




Left atrial volume = $8/3\pi[(A1 \times A2) / L^*]$

- Two-dimensional speckle-tracking echocardiography has been used in the assessment of LA function.
- Three-dimensional echocardiography has been introduced in the measurement of LA size and volume, and it gives many advantages over two-dimensional echocardiography.
- Analysis of LA appendage can give indirect information about LA function, and impaired LA appendageal function in patients with non-dipper compared to dipper hypertensive patients.







Other echocardiographic findings in hypertensive patients

- # Pulmonary hypertension
- PASP = RVSP = RAP + $4 \times TR Vmax2$.
- Right ventricular outflow tract acceleration time (<80ms).
- # Ischemic heart disease, dilatation of ascending aorta, and aortic valve sclerosis or stenosis can be found.

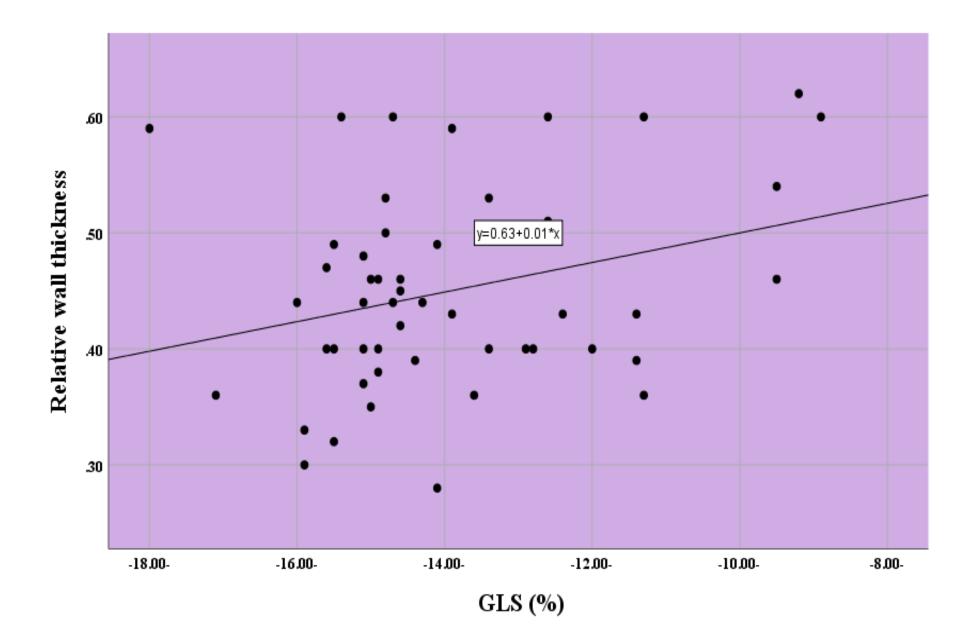
prognostic sigificance of hypertension by echocardiography

- LV hypertrophy is recognized as evidence of target organ damage in hypertension by the Joint National Committee for the prevention, detection, and evaluation of high blood pressure.
- The type of LV remodelling (concentric remodelling, eccentric hypertrophy, and concentric hypertrophy) is predictive of the incidence of CV event.

 Global measure of LV chamber function, is used to distinguish systolic (EF <50%) from diastolic HF (EF >50%), and is a reliable method for predicting primary cardiac events and cardiac mortality in individuals.

 Global longitudinal strain has shown a prognostic value in patients with normal EF, where the prognostic information from EF is less useful. 2D strain has been shown to be abnormal in hypertensive patients with normal EF, as well as in pre-hypertension. Among tissue Doppler parameters, S' has shown the best correlation with LVEF and significant clinical outcomes such as rehospitalization and reduced survival, although measurements at the septal and lateral side in the apical four-chamber view have proved to produce good results (S' < 7 cm/s showing 93% sensitivity and 87% specificity to identify patients with LVEF <45%). Other authors have reported slightly higher diagnostic power with measurements at six sites from the apical four-chamber, two-chamber and long-axis views (sixsite average s' > 5.4cm/s showing 88% sensitivity and 97% specificity for LVEF >50%).

 And in the same context, another study had been done by faculty of medicine in university of Babylon in Marjan medical teaching city by Dr. Sarah AL Essa and Professor Dr. Oday Al Salihi to see the correlation between conventional 2D echocardiographic parameters (LV mass index and RWT) with Global longitudinal strain by 2D-speckle tracking echocardiography in hypertensive patients and compared to control subjects, Our study have reported strong correlation between increasing in RWT with reduction in LV GLS and LV GLS has reduced in hypertensive patients even had normal LV mass index.



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Review and Acceptance Letter

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Dear Corresponding Authors: -

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Department of Medicine, College of Medicine, University of Babylon, Babylon, Iraq.

Paper ID: JRTDD_22_01_0015

Paper Title: Correlation between the posterior left ventricular wall thickness and relative wall thickness with global longitudinal strain (GLS) in hypertension

We are pleased to inform you that your manuscript has been accepted for publication in Journal for ReAttach Therapy and Developmental Diversities (E-ISSN:2589-7799) in Current Issue of 2022.

The blind peer review process results are given below

----- REVIEW 1 -----

Review Decision 1: Accepted

- 1. Originality: 91%
- 2. Article scope: 88%
- 3. Understandable: Yes
- 4. References: Cited Properly
- 5. Result: Satisfactory

------ REVIEW 2 -----

Review Decision 2: Accepted

- 1. Originality: 87%
- 2. Article scope: 75%
- 3. Understandable: Yes
- 4. References: Cited Properly
- 5. Result: Satisfactory

Final Decision: Accepted

For any further query feel free to contact us.

Regards

Editorial Team

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• Finally, all echocardiography reports in patients with hypertension should include specific comments about LV mass index, RWT, systolic function, diastolic function grade, left atrial volume, and about normal vs. elevated LV filling pressure (usually based on E/e').

