

## Strain in the Echo Lab The Clinic Experience

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Disclosures: None



## OVERVIEW

- *Strain and Strain Rate – Definitions*
- *Why it is important?*
- *Clinical Applications in the CCF Echo Lab*
- *Future Perspectives*

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## Myocardial Strain: What is It?

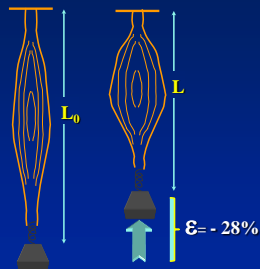
- **Strain** is defined as the **deformation of an object, normalized to its original shape.**
- **Strain Rate (SR)** should be understood as the **rate of myocardial deformation over a period of time.**
- **Strain Rate (SR) =  $\frac{\text{Strain}}{\text{time}}$**



## Strain Calculation

$$\bullet \text{ Strain } (\epsilon) = \frac{L - L_0}{L_0}$$

$$\bullet \text{ Strain } (\epsilon) = \frac{7 - 9}{9}$$



Mirsky and Parmley, Circ Res, 1973



## Strain or deformation

- *Units → Dimensionless*
- *Lengthening → Positive value*
- *Shortening → Negative value*





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### Strain and Torsion

Notomi et al. Circulation 2005; 111: 1141-7

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### Fundamental Shear Strain

Geyer H et al. JASE 2010;23:351-69

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Ozkan A, Marwick TH. Nat Rev Cardiol. 2011;8(9):494-501

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## Strain in Myocardial Disease

- **Importance of Longitudinal Strain**
  - Longitudinal fibers are predominant in the subendocardial region
  - Most vulnerable component of LV mechanics and therefore **most sensitive to the early presence of myocardial disease.**

Table 1 Classification of cardiac mechanics in heart failure

Functional impairment	Longitudinal mechanics	Circumferential mechanics	Radial mechanics	Transverse mechanics	Global EF	Diastolic filling pressures	Clinical syndrome
Preserved subendocardial dysfunction	Marked impairment	Preserved	Preserved	Preserved	Preserved	Elevated	Diastolic HF (HFpEF)
Preserved subendocardial dysfunction	Preserved	Marked impairment	Marked impairment	Marked impairment	Preserved	Elevated	Diastolic HF (HFpEF)
Transmural dysfunction	Marked impairment	Marked impairment	Marked impairment	Marked impairment	Marked impairment	Elevated	Systolic HF

EF = Ejection fraction; HF, heart failure; HFpEF, heart failure with normal ejection fraction.

Geyer H et al. JASE 2010;23:351-69



### BRIEF REPORT

## Myocardial Strain Measurement With 2-Dimensional Speckle-Tracking Echocardiography

Definition of Normal Range

Thomas H. Marwick, MD,\* Rodel L. Leano, BS,\* Joseph Brown, BS,\* Jing-Ping Sun, MD,† Rainer Hoffmann, MD,‡ Peter Lyysky, PhD,§ Michael Becker MD,‡ James D. Thomas, MD†  
 Brisbane, Australia; Cleveland, Ohio; Aachen, Germany; and Haifa, Israel

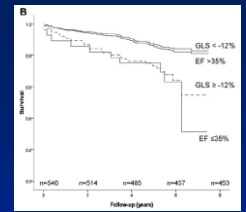
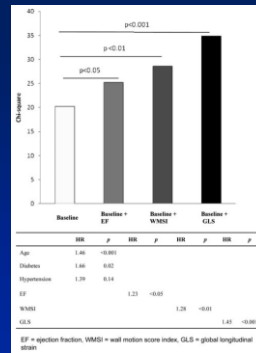
The interpretation of wall motion is an important component of echocardiography but remains a source of variation between observers. It has been believed that automated quantification of left ventricular (LV) systolic function by measurement of LV systolic strain from speckle-tracking echocardiography might be helpful. This multicenter study of nearly 250 volunteers without evidence of cardiovascular disease showed an average LV peak systolic strain of  $-18.6 \pm 0.1\%$ . Although strain was influenced by weight, blood pressure, and heart rate, these features accounted for only 16% of variance. However, there was significant segmental variation of regional strain to necessitate the use of site-specific normal ranges. (J Am Coll Cardiol Img 2009;2:80-4) © 2009 by the American College of Cardiology Foundation



Table 1. Left Ventricular 2-Dimensional Longitudinal Strain and SRs in Subjects at Different Sites

Parameter	Peak Systolic Strain (%)	Peak Systolic SR (1/s)	Early Diastolic E1 SR (1/s)	Late Diastolic (A) SR (1/s)
Mean ± SEM	$-18.6 \pm 0.1$	$-1.10 \pm 0.01$	$1.55 \pm 0.01$	$1.02 \pm 0.01$
Lower 95% limit	-18.5	-1.09	1.54	1.01
Upper 95% limit	-18.7	-1.11	1.56	1.03

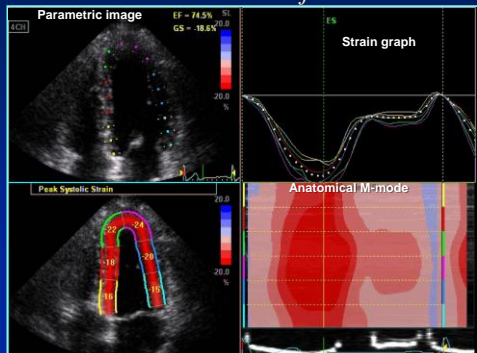
Selected for tracking quality (IQ) <3.  
 SR = strain rate.



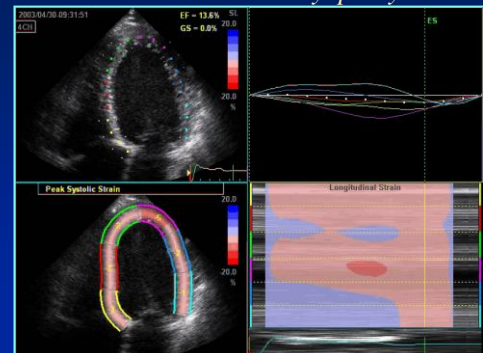
Stanton et al. Circ CV Imaging 2009;2:356-64



## Longitudinal Strain Normal Subject

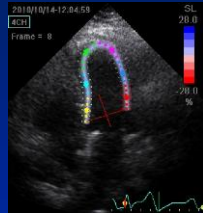


## Longitudinal Strain Dilated Cardiomyopathy



## Caveats of Speckle-Tracking derived Strain

- *Highly dependent on image quality and acquisition. (ie: reverberation, attenuation artifacts, etc)*
- *Excessive or limited region-of-interest width (don't include the pericardium!).*
- *Technical proficiency for image acquisition and measurements.*
- *Cannot do it in the presence of IV myocardial contrast for LVO.*



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## Early detection of cardiotoxicity from chemotherapy

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## Chemotherapy Associated with LV Dysfunction

Chemotx Agent	Incidence	Frequency of use
Antracyclines (Doxorubicin)	3-26%	+++
Cyclophosphamide	7-28%	+++
Trastuzumab (Herceptin)	2-28%	++

Yeh ET, Bickford CL. JACC 2009;53:2231-47.

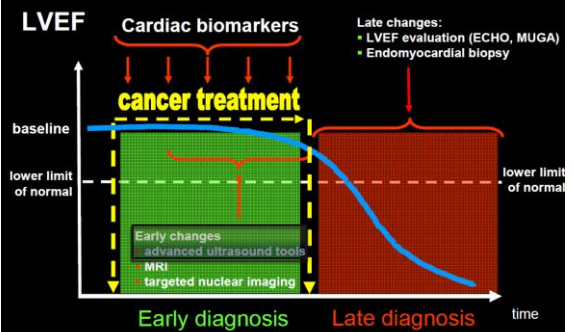
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## What's the classic and current definition of chemotherapy related cardiotoxicity?

- *Symptomatic reduction >5% to an EF <55%*
- *Asymptomatic reduction >10% to an EF <55%*

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## EARLY DETECTION OF CARDIOTOXICITY



### Use of myocardial deformation imaging to detect preclinical myocardial dysfunction before conventional measures in patients undergoing breast cancer treatment with trastuzumab

James L. Hare, MBBS, Joseph K. Brown, BSc, Rodol Leano, BSc, Carly Jenkins, MSc, Natasha Woodward, MBBS, and Thomas H. Marwick, MBBS, PhD, Brisbane, Australia

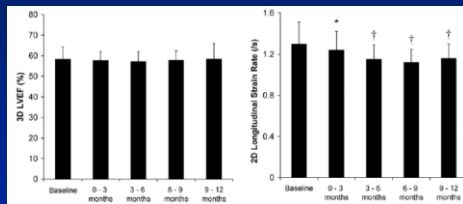
**Background** Trastuzumab prolongs survival in patients with human epidermal growth factor receptor type 2-positive breast cancer. Sequential left ventricular (LV) ejection fraction (EF) assessment has been mandated to detect myocardial dysfunction because of the risk of heart failure with this treatment. Myocardial deformation imaging is a sensitive means of detecting LV dysfunction, but this technique has not been evaluated in patients treated with trastuzumab. The aim of this study was to investigate whether changes in tissue deformation, assessed by myocardial strain and strain rate (SR), are able to identify LV dysfunction earlier than conventional echocardiographic measures in patients treated with trastuzumab.

**Methods** Sequential echocardiograms (n = 152) were performed in 35 female patients (51 ± 8 years) undergoing trastuzumab therapy for human epidermal growth factor receptor type 2-positive breast cancer. Left ventricular EF was measured by 2- and 3-dimensional (2D and 3D) echocardiography, and myocardial deformation was assessed using tissue Doppler imaging and 2D-based (speckle-tracking) strain and SR. Change over time was compared every 3 months between baseline and 12 months.

**Conclusions** Myocardial deformation identifies preclinical myocardial dysfunction earlier than conventional measures in women undergoing treatment with trastuzumab for breast cancer. [Am Heart J 2009;158:294-301.]



### 3D LVEF vs. Longitudinal Strain Rate



Hare JL et al. Am Heart J. 2009;158(2):294-301



### Early Detection and Prediction of Cardiotoxicity in Chemotherapy-Treated Patients

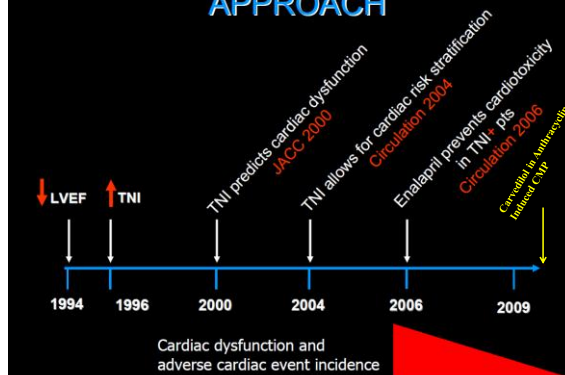
Heloisa Sawaya, MD, PhD, Igal A. Sebag, MD, Juan Carlos Piana, MD, James L. Januzzi, MD, Bonnie Ky, MD, Victor Cohen, MD, Sucheta Gosavi, MD, Joseph R. Carver, MD, Susan E. Wiegers, MD, Randolph P. Martin, MD, Michael H. Picard, MD, Robert E. Gerszten, MD, Elkan F. Halpern, PhD, Jonathan Passeri, MD, Irene Kuter, MD, and Marielle Scherrer-Crosbie, MD, PhD

**Objectives:** To evaluate if more sensitive echocardiographic measurements and biomarkers could predict later cardiac dysfunction in chemo-treated patients.

	Sensitivity	Specificity	PPV	NPV
10% decrease longitudinal strain	7/9 (78%)	27/34 (79%)	7/14 (50%)	27/29 (93%)
Increased cTnI at 3 months	6/9 (67%)	28/34 (82%)	6/12 (50%)	28/31 (90%)
10% decrease Long strain and increased cTnI at 3 months	5/9 (55%)	33/34 (97%)	5/6 (83%)	33/37 (89%)
10% decrease Long strain or increased cTnI at 3 months	8/9 (89%)	22/34 (65%)	8/20 (40%)	22/23 (97%)

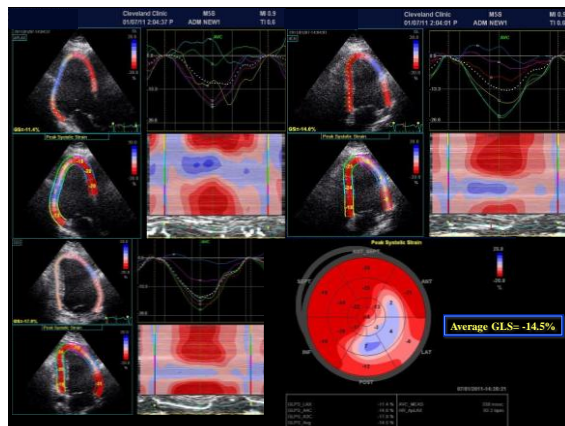
Am J Cardiology 2011;107(9):1375-80

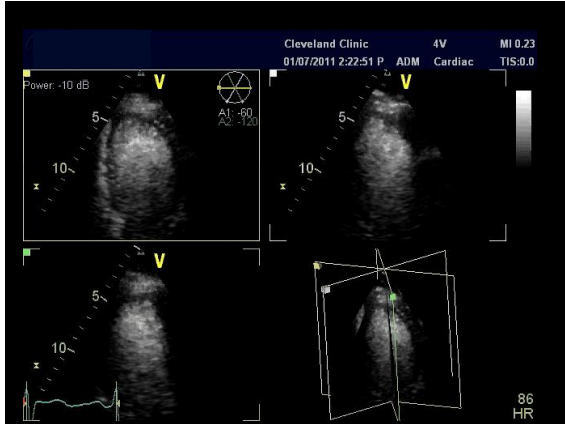
### APPROACH



### Clinical Example

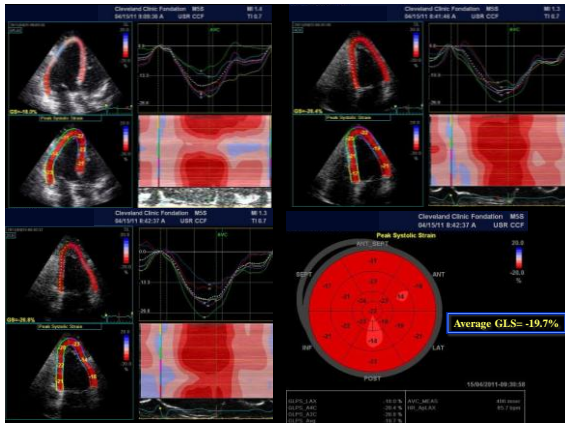
- 52yo female with history of breast CA ( $T_{1c}N_1M_0$ ) dx in 07/2000.
  - S/p Modified radical mastectomy w/ adjuvant Chemotx
  - Adriamycin/Doxorubicin (12yrs prior) + XRT
- Recurrence 8 yrs after w/ mets
  - Herceptin 2yrs + XRT
- Mild exertional dyspnea (walking up 5 flights of steps). No PND/orthopnea.
- Longstanding edema, due to varicose veins.
- No angina.
- Hypotensive symptoms with Anti-HTN Rx in past.





### Clinical Example

- Patient was started on Ramipril 2.5 mg in AM and 5 mg PM
- Bisoprolol 2.5 mg/day was added 2 weeks after and titrated up to 5 mg/day over 1 month.
- Tolerated well, except for mild cough.
- Follow-up Echo in 1 and 3 months



Echocardiographic Variables	Normal (n = 32)	CM (n = 10)	p Value
<b>LV Dimensions</b>			
Baseline	42 ± 5	64 ± 3	0.31
3 months	60 ± 8	58 ± 4	0.69
6 months	64 ± 4	42 ± 9*	<0.001
9 months	68 ± 4	39 ± 9*	<0.001
12 months	65 ± 9	49 ± 9*	<0.001
<b>TD parameters</b>			
Mean S' (cm/s)			
Baseline	8.9 ± 1.4	9.2 ± 1.6	0.47
3 months	9.1 ± 1.6	6.4 ± 0.6*	<0.001
6 months	8.9 ± 0.8	4.3 ± 0.5*	<0.001
9 months	9.0 ± 0.7	3.9 ± 0.7*	<0.001
12 months	8.7 ± 1.1	6.8 ± 0.8*	<0.001
<b>2D speckle tracking</b>			
Peak global longitudinal strain			
Baseline	-20.2 ± 2.4	-19.8 ± 1.8	0.72
3 months	-19.9 ± 2.3	-16.4 ± 1.1*	<0.001
6 months	-18.8 ± 2.8	-13.4 ± 1.8*	<0.001
9 months	-20.1 ± 1.7	-12.4 ± 2.1*	<0.001
12 months	-19.8 ± 1.9	-15.9 ± 2.7*	<0.001

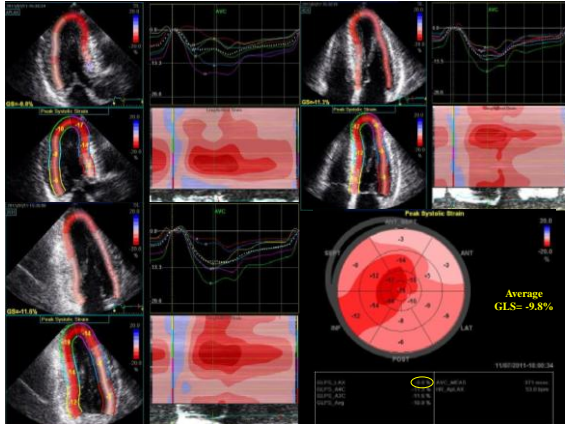
Echocardiographic Variables	Cutoff Value	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity	PPV	NPV
S' (cm/s)	0.60	0.93 (0.89-0.99)	0.99	0.96	0.98
Longitudinal strain	2.00	0.79 (0.61-0.96)	0.82	0.60	0.92
Radial strain	0.80	0.86 (0.57-0.98)	0.81	0.60	0.95

Fallah-Rad et al.  
JACC 2011;31:57(22):2263-70

### Strain in HCM

IVSd = 2 cm

### 45 yo female with exertional dyspnea



### Correlation of regional function and myocardial fibrosis in HCM

Figure 3 Average longitudinal strains ( $\pm$  standard error of the mean) at the base, mid, and apical part of the LV in patients with non-apical form of HCM without fibrosis (n = 16), non-apical form of HCM with fibrosis (n = 20), or apical form of HCM (n = 3), and in healthy controls (n = 23). Although all 3 groups had a significant apex-to-base decrease of longitudinal strain, this decrease was larger in patients with HCM with and without fibrosis ( $P = .023$  and  $P < .001$  vs healthy controls, respectively). All 3 patients with apical form of HCM (all with fibrosis) had an apex-to-base increase of longitudinal strain. Numbers on the abscissa represent the total number of segments assessed at each level in each group of subjects. HCM, Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

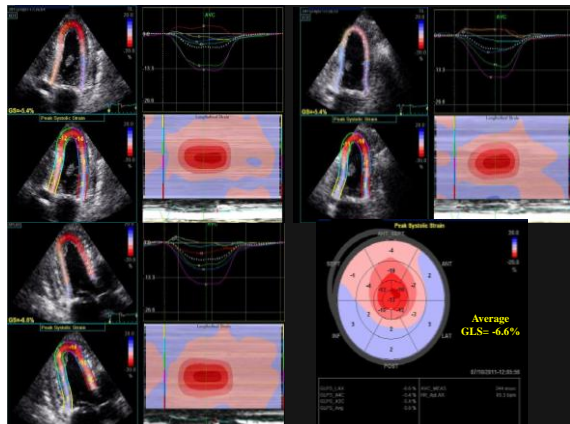
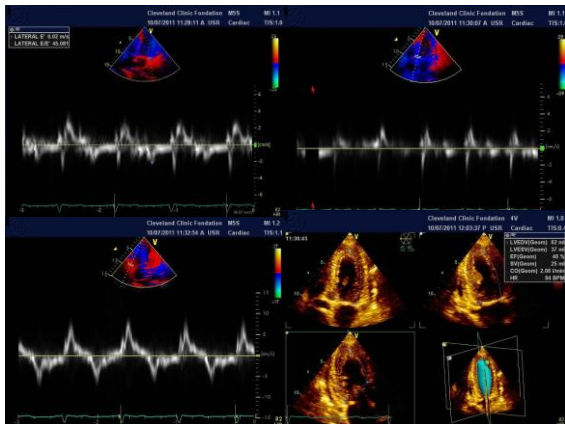
- N=72 (39 w/ HCM and 23 controls)
- Mean end-systolic Long strain correlated well with total myocardial fibrosis ( $r=-0.46, p=0.003$ )
- Longitudinal, circumferential, and radial strains are decreased in patients with HCM even in the absence of fibrosis.
- Myocardial fibrosis is associated with depressed longitudinal strain in patients with HCM.

Popovic Z et al. JASE 2008;21:1299-1305

### Other Clinical Applications of Strain

- Correlation of regional function and myocardial fibrosis in cardiomyopathies. (ie: amyloid, DCM, etc)
- Pericardial Diseases
- Regional and Global Function of other cardiac chambers (ie: LA, RV).
- Could it be measured with/post contrast?

### 67 yo female with adv COPD, s/p robotic MV repair (5 mos prior) with progressive HF symptoms



**FINAL DIAGNOSIS**

A. Skin, left lower extremity, punch biopsy  
- No evidence of amyloidosis identified (see comment).


**COMMENT:**  
Sections demonstrate relatively normal benign fibroplastic tissue. A Congo red stain is sent also reviewed this.

**FINAL DIAGNOSIS**

- PLASMA CELL NEOPLASM.
- PRIMARY AMYLOIDOSIS.

**COMMENT:** The patient has a history of congestive heart failure and monoclonal protein with IgA kappa light restriction. The current bone marrow is normocellular for age and shows trilineage hematopoiesis. CD138 positive plasma cells showing kappa light chain restriction are increased, which may represent approximately 20% of the total cellularity. Congo red stain is positive for amyloid deposit. Overall, morphologic and immunohistochemical findings are consistent with plasma cell neoplasm and primary amyloidosis. Correlation with clinical and cytogenetic findings is suggested.

CBC (10-19-2011): WBC 21.0; Hgb 9.1; Hct 30.9; ESW 18.7; Pts 182  
Differential (%): Segs 84; Lymphs 4; Monos 12; Eos 0.6; sRBCs per 100 WBCs



**Differentiation of Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy and Cardiac Amyloidosis from Other Causes of Ventricular Wall Thickening by Two-Dimensional Strain Imaging Echocardiography**

Jing Ping Sun, MD<sup>1</sup>, William J. Stewart, MD<sup>2</sup>, Xing Sheng Yang, MD, PhD<sup>3</sup>, Robert O. Donnell, MD<sup>4</sup>, Angel R. Lopez, MD<sup>5</sup>, Joel M. Felner, MD<sup>6</sup>, James D. Thomas, MD<sup>7</sup>, and John D. Merlino, MD<sup>8</sup>

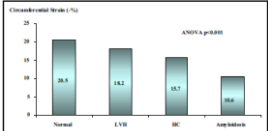
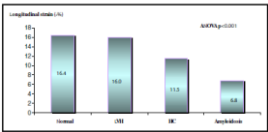

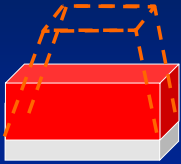


Figure 2. Differences in circumferential strain among the groups. ANOVA = analysis of variance; LVH = LV hypertrophy.






**Constrictive Pericarditis**



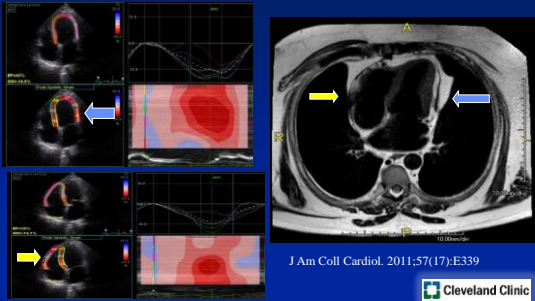
Muscle  
Pericardium

Constricted pericardial shell tethers the myocardium



**Regional LV and RV Free Wall Longitudinal Strain by Speckle Tracking is Reduced in Patients with Constrictive Pericarditis: An MRI Correlation Study**

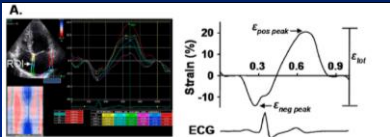
Arun Dahiya, Zoran B Popovic, M Chadi Alraies, Joao L. Cavaleante, L. Leonardo Rodriguez, Scott Flamm, Allan L. Klein

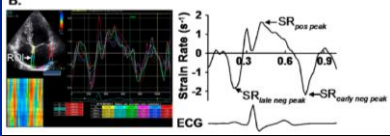


J Am Coll Cardiol. 2011;57(17):E339




**Understanding LA function (contractile, conductive and reservoir)**

**A.** 

**B.** 

Saraiva R et al. JASE 2010;23:172-80



**Functional Recovery of the Left Atrium after Pericardiectomy Demonstrated by Speckle Tracking Imaging**

Hirohiko Motoki, MD, PhD, Andrew C. Y. To, MBChB, Roberto M Saraiva, MD, PhD, Arun Dahiya, MD, Mazen Hanna, MD, Chadi Alraies, MD, Juan Carlos Piana, MD, Thomas H. Marwick, MD, PhD, Alison L. Klein, MD.

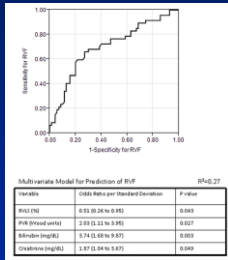


JASE 2011





## Can RVLS predict RV failure post LVAD implantation?

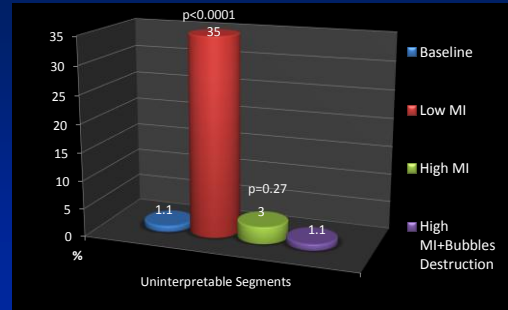


- N=117 patients undergoing LVAD implant.
- RV failure defined as need for RVAD or use of inotropic > 14 days.
- VVI measure RVLS on pre-procedural echocardiograms.
- 40% pts had RV failure.
- Cutoff value of -9.6% predicted RV failure w/ specificity of 76% and sensitivity of 68% with ROC=0.70.
- RVLS was independent predictor of RV failure.

Grant AD, Starling RC, Smedira NG, Marwick TH. Circulation 2011;124:A11333



## Feasibility of STLS assessment in the presence of LV contrast



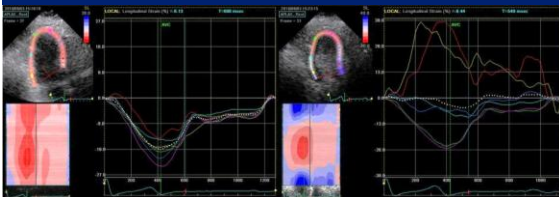
Cavalcante JL, Plana JC, Thomas JD, Marwick TH. Circulation 2011;124:A17415



## Just an example...

PRE-CONTRAST

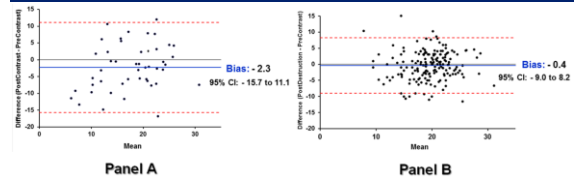
POST-CONTRAST with LOW MI



Cavalcante JL, Plana JC, Thomas JD, Marwick TH. Circulation 2011;124:A17415



## Bland-Altman Plot Analysis of STLS measurements



Cavalcante JL, Plana JC, Thomas JD, Marwick TH. Circulation 2011;124:A17415



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## 3D Speckle-Tracking



## Layer Specific Strain



## Strain and Strain Rate

- Free from Translation and Tethering
- Highly dependent on image quality
- Robust and sensitive marker of functional changes of subclinical disease.
- It can quantify global and **regional** myocardial function, adding incremental value to standard measurements.

## Strain and Strain Rate – What's Ahead?

- Multicenter trials are needed to further confirm and establish the incremental value of this method.
- Standardization of the measurements across vendors and different platforms.
- Significance of these measurements needs to be considered in the context of

*early detection of subclinical  
abnormality → early intervention*

***Thanks!!***