Prognostic Value of Diastolic Dysfunction Derived From D-SPECT in Coronary Artery Disease Patients With Normal Ejection Fraction

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Diastolic dysfunction (DD) with normal systolic function has been elucidated to be associated with heart failure and worse prognosis. The recently introduced single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) with dedicated cardiac cadmium-zinc-telluride (CZT) cameras (D-SPECT) is a novel method to quantify left ventricular functional parameters. We aimed to evaluate the prognostic value of DD derived from D-SPECT in coronary artery disease (CAD) patients with normal ejection fraction. All CAD patients who underwent D-SPECT and invasive coronary angiography within 3 months were considered. DD was defined as peak filling rate (PFR) < 2.1 end diastolic volume (EDV, ml)/s according to the D-SPECT results. Patients were divided into three groups: group 1 (n = 226)—normal PFR; group 2 (n = 67)—ischemia-related DD (abnormal stress PFR and normal rest PFR); and group 3 (n = 106)—rest DD (abnormal rest PFR). The primary clinical endpoint of the present study was a composite of heart failure events (HFE). A total of 399 consecutive CAD patients with normal systolic function undergoing stress D-SPECT were analyzed. The incidence rates of HFE among the three groups were 4.0, 7.5, and 11.3%, respectively. Cox regression analysis showed that the multivariate predictors of HFE were rest PFR, diabetes mellitus, obesity, and old age. DD derived from D-SPECT in CAD patients with normal ejection fraction is predictive of HFE.

Keywords: diastolic dysfunction, D-SPECT, peak filling rate, prognosis, CAD

INTRODUCTION

Diastolic dysfunction (DD) with normal systolic function has been elucidated to be associated with development of heart failure (HF) and is predictive of all-cause mortality (1–3). The prevalence of DD with normal systolic function in the general adult population is approximately 20–30% and increases with old age, diabetes mellitus (DM), and the presence of cardiovascular comorbidities, such as hypertension, obesity, and coronary artery disease (CAD) (1, 4, 5). Advanced DD with normal ejection fraction showed evidence of structural remodeling compared with subjects with normal or mild DD (4). In addition, the extent and severity of CAD
According to the echocardiography, all patients with abnormal coronary revascularization and/or healed myocardial infarction or who had a history of CAD that was defined as previous coronary angiograms were assessed by at least two experienced cardiologists, and all disagreements were resolved by consensus. Obstructive CAD was defined as stenosis $\geq 50\%$ in at least one major epicardial vessel.

**Coronary Angiography**

CAG was operated based on the standard method, and at least two right coronary artery projections and four left coronary artery projections were performed (16). The coronary angiograms were assessed by at least two experienced cardiologists, and all disagreements were resolved by consensus.

**D-SPECT Images Acquisition**

D-SPECT image acquisition was performed as previously described (17). All patients underwent a single-day rest–stress $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$-sestamibi ($^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$-MIBI; HTA Co., Ltd., Beijing, China) protocol performed with a D-SPECT cardiac camera (Spectrum Dynamics, Biosensors, Caesarea, Israel). Our D-SPECT camera consisted of nine rotating pixelated detector columns of CZT crystals. Every detector was furnished with a wide-angle square-hole tungsten collimator and rotated around its central axis during the scanning process focusing on the region of interest (ROI). The spatial and temporal resolutions of the CZT camera are 5.0 mm and 1 ms, respectively, and 8-frame gated acquisitions were used in the present study.

All patients were requested to avoid caffeine, nitrates, calcium channel blockers (CCB), and beta-blockers for 24–48 h prior to testing. All patients underwent pharmacological stress testing by intravenous administration of adenosine triphosphate (ATP, 140 $\mu$g/kg-min, for 6 min; Shanghai Shyndec Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., Shanghai, China). In our nuclear medicine center, pharmacological stress testing was a common practice attributed to logistical reasons. After injection of $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$-MIBI for 30 min, patients were instructed to drink three cups of water and consume at least half a chocolate bar to decrease the uptake of subdiaphragmatic activity and enhance the image quality of the inferior wall. $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$-MIBI was bolus injected as a perfusion radiotrace by an automatic injector to control the reproducibility and quality of radiotracer infusion (18). Heart rate, blood pressure, 12-lead electrocardiogram, and clinical symptoms were recorded every minute before, during, and after ATP injection. No major side effects occurred during the stress test in all patients.

After the injection of a low dose of radiotracer, pre-scanning was performed to position the heart in the field of view. The rest image acquisition was performed approximately 1 h after $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$-MIBI injection (3 MBq/kg) with the patient being seated in the supine position for 6 min. With the intravenous infusion of ATP (140 $\mu$g/kg-min, for 6 min), the stress image acquisition was initiated 30 min after the recording of rest image acquisition, and the $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$-MIBI (9 MBq/kg) was injected 3 min after ATP. After a 30-minute interval, the stress image acquisition was performed for 6 min. We applied the algorithm “Ordered Subset Expectation Maximization” (OSEM) for image reconstruction, combining the normalize filter of 4 iterations (I) and 32 subsets (S) in D-SPECT scanner for the energy window of 140 keV±10%. There was no scatter correction or attenuation correction applied. With QPS software (Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, LA, CA, USA), images were reoriented into short-axis, horizontal, and vertical long-axis slices.
All MPI images were semi-quantitatively interpreted with a 17-segment model, the semi-quantitative analysis was performed by two experienced nuclear cardiologists, and all disagreements were resolved by consensus (Supplementary Figures 1, 2). Each segment was scored based on a five-point scale (0 = normal; 1 = equivocal; 2 = moderate; 3 = severe reduction in radioisotope uptake; 4 = absence of detectable tracer uptake) (19). The summed rest score (SRS) and the summed stress score (SSS) were calculated by adding all 17 segments scores, respectively, in the stress and rest images. The summed difference score (SDS) was obtained by the difference between SSS and SRS. Myocardial ischemia was considered to exist in individual coronary territories while the SSS was ≥4, and the SDS was ≥2 (20, 21).

LV volume and LVEF were automatically calculated using QPS software. Manual editing was performed in patients with inadequate border detection. The LV-filling rate/time curve was computed from the first derivative of the volume/time curve. PFR was defined as the maximum dV/dt value divided by end-diastolic volume per second, and the unit for PFR was EDV/s (18). The time to peak filling (TTPF), expressed in milliseconds, was defined as the interval between end systole and PFR, and the unit for TTPF was milliseconds. MFR/3 represents the mean rate of filling over the first third of diastole.

Follow-Up
Follow-up data were collected for at least 2 years in the present study after the D-SPECT data collection was commenced. Patients were requested to record their status and contact us as soon as they developed any symptoms after the D-SPECT test. Follow-up was performed by trained cardiologists in Shanghai Tenth People’s Hospital. Our patient population was followed up via telephone calls, clinical visit, and medical records. If we failed to get connection with the patient, follow-up information would be collected through their treating doctors or family members.

The primary clinical endpoint of the present study was a composite of heart failure events (HFE), including hospital admission with a diagnosis of heart failure, worsening New York Heart Association (NYHA) class, a reduction in LVEF >10%, and cardiovascular death. Heart failure was diagnosed according to the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) guideline characterized by typical symptoms (e.g., breathlessness, ankle swelling, and fatigue) and signs (e.g., elevated jugular venous pressure, pulmonary crackles, and peripheral edema) (22). At the time of follow-up, the treating cardiologists would assess the patient whether NYHA class had deteriorated. Cardiovascular death was defined as death attributed to acute coronary syndrome, severe cardiac arrhythmia, or refractory congestive heart failure.
### TABLE 1 | Baseline characteristics of the study population.

| Variables                  | Group 1 (n = 226) | Group 2 (n = 67) | Group 3 (n = 106) | p-Value |
|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------|
| Female, n (%)              | 87 (38.5)         | 14 (20.9)        | 20 (18.9)         | < 0.001 |
| Age (years)                | 64.23 ± 8.86      | 63.91 ± 10.28    | 64.76 ± 9.61      | 0.842   |
| BMI (kg/m²)                | 24.98 ± 3.19      | 25.15 ± 2.95     | 24.79 ± 2.52      | 0.727   |
| DM, n (%)                  | 79 (35.0)         | 17 (25.4)        | 28 (26.4)         | 0.16    |
| HLP, n (%)                 | 63 (27.9)         | 19 (28.4)        | 36 (34.0)         | 0.512   |
| HTN, n (%)                 | 153 (67.7)        | 47 (70.1)        | 74 (69.8)         | 0.917   |
| Smoking history, n (%)     | 52 (23.0)         | 18 (26.9)        | 35 (33.0)         | 0.161   |
| PCI history, n (%)         | 162 (72.0)        | 48 (71.6)        | 79 (74.5)         | 0.874   |
| SBP (mmHg)                 | 134.00 ± 20.02    | 137.02 ± 21.73   | 133.24 ± 22.91    | 0.492   |
| DBP (mmHg)                 | 77.23 ± 12.69     | 79.28 ± 12.08    | 76.44 ± 13.42     | 0.353   |
| HR (bpm)                   | 76.30 ± 11.50     | 76.66 ± 10.99    | 73.30 ± 11.25     | 0.011   |
| TC (mmol/L)                | 3.78 ± 1.06       | 3.71 ± 0.94      | 3.69 ± 0.98       | 0.756   |
| TG (mmol/L)                | 1.72 ± 1.41       | 1.66 ± 1.07      | 1.73 ± 1.05       | 0.938   |
| HDL-C (mmol/L)             | 1.10 ± 0.27       | 1.09 ± 0.26      | 1.04 ± 0.25       | 0.241   |
| LDL-C (mmol/L)             | 2.08 ± 0.93       | 1.99 ± 0.89      | 2.01 ± 0.85       | 0.697   |
| HBA1c (%)                  | 6.57 ± 1.30       | 6.33 ± 1.26      | 6.32 ± 0.90       | 0.161   |
| cTnT (ng/ml)               | 0.095 ± 0.512     | 0.194 ± 0.725    | 0.195 ± 1.046     | 0.404   |
| CK-MB (ng/ml)              | 4.84 ± 19.22      | 6.87 ± 26.54     | 5.64 ± 29.75      | 0.821   |
| MYO (ng/ml)                | 39.74 ± 59.73     | 39.02 ± 33.47    | 41.89 ± 58.85     | 0.933   |
| NT-proBNP (pg/ml)          | 218.5 ± 702.0     | 212.4 ± 368.1    | 349.3 ± 1330.0    | 0.419   |
| LVEF (%)                   | 63.3 ± 3.9        | 61.4 ± 4.9       | 59.8 ± 6.6        | < 0.001 |

BMI, body mass index; DM, diabetes mellitus; HLP, hyperlipidemia; HTN, hypertension; PCI, percutaneous coronary intervention; SBP, systolic blood pressure; DBP, diastolic blood pressure; HR, heart rate; TC, total cholesterol; TG, triglyceride; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; HBA1c, glycated hemoglobin; cTnT, cardiac troponin T; CK-MB, creatine kinase MB; MYO, myoglobin; NT-proBNP, N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide; LVEF, left ventricular ejection fraction.

### TABLE 2 | D-SPECT data of the study population.

| Variables                  | Group 1 (n = 226) | Group 2 (n = 67) | Group 3 (n = 106) | p-Value |
|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------|
| SRS (median ± IQR)         | 1.40 ± 3.09       | 1.46 ± 2.66      | 2.04 ± 4.42       | 0.274   |
| SSS (median ± IQR)         | 3.19 ± 4.71       | 3.14 ± 4.18      | 4.03 ± 5.57       | 0.307   |
| SDS (median ± IQR)         | 1.80 ± 2.30       | 1.78 ± 2.14      | 1.99 ± 2.29       | 0.729   |
| TPD (%)                    | 4.38 ± 6.38       | 4.25 ± 5.72      | 5.22 ± 7.09       | 0.495   |
| TiD                        | 1.09 ± 0.15       | 1.11 ± 0.12      | 1.10 ± 0.12       | 0.677   |
| Rest EDV (ml)              | 62.43 ± 18.46     | 75.36 ± 18.54    | 86.82 ± 27.47     | < 0.001 |
| Rest ESV (ml)              | 20.89 ± 10.11     | 28.99 ± 11.72    | 38.49 ± 18.51     | < 0.001 |
| Rest LVEF (%)              | 67.53 ± 12.30     | 62.55 ± 9.46     | 56.69 ± 13.21     | < 0.001 |
| Rest PER (-EDV/s)          | 3.71 ± 0.71       | 3.17 ± 0.57      | 2.78 ± 0.73       | < 0.001 |
| Rest PFR (EDV/s)           | 2.82 ± 0.76       | 2.52 ± 0.98      | 1.71 ± 0.32       | < 0.001 |
| Rest TTPF (ms)             | 178.9 ± 59.0      | 193.9 ± 69.5     | 186.8 ± 56.0      | 0.161   |
| Rest MFR/3 (EDV/s)         | 1.25 ± 0.36       | 1.14 ± 0.33      | 1.02 ± 0.27       | < 0.001 |
| Stress EDV (ml)            | 69.09 ± 20.00     | 84.72 ± 19.53    | 93.23 ± 28.37     | < 0.001 |
| Stress ESV (ml)            | 23.94 ± 11.42     | 35.66 ± 12.38    | 41.6 ± 20.48      | < 0.001 |
| Stress LVEF (%)            | 66.89 ± 8.14      | 58.70 ± 9.60     | 57.45 ± 10.83     | < 0.001 |
| Stress PER (-EDV/s)        | 3.49 ± 0.65       | 2.88 ± 0.54      | 2.89 ± 0.69       | < 0.001 |
| Stress PFR (EDV/s)         | 2.70 ± 0.58       | 1.78 ± 0.27      | 1.92 ± 0.43       | < 0.001 |
| Stress TTPF (ms)           | 176.4 ± 59.5      | 191.0 ± 44.0     | 181.9 ± 47.2      | 0.144   |
| Stress MFR/3 (EDV/s)       | 1.27 ± 0.35       | 1.06 ± 0.25      | 1.1 ± 0.31        | < 0.001 |

SRS, summed rest score; SSS, summed stress score; SDS, summed difference score; TPD, total perfusion defects; TiD, transient ischemic dilatation; EDV, end diastolic volume; ESV, end systolic volume; LVEF, left ventricular ejection fraction; PER, peak ejection rate; PFR, peak filling rate; TTPF, time to peak filling; MFR/3, mean filling rate over first third of diastole.
**Statistical Analysis**
Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) v.22 software (IBM Corp., Armonk, NY, USA) was applied to perform statistical analyses. An independent sample t-test was used for intergroup comparisons of numerical variables. Numerical variables were presented as mean±SE with a normal distribution. Categorial variables were expressed as percentages, and the chi-square test and Fisher’s exact tests were used for comparisons. To quantify the relative risk of outcomes between three groups, Cox regression models were performed to derive adjusted hazard ratio (HR) for HFE. Covariates in the models were gender, age, obesity, hypertension, DM, hyperlipidemia, LVEF, rest PFR, stress PFR, and ischemia-related DD. All factors univariate analysis with p < 0.10 were considered as covariates for multivariable model. For evaluation of HFE, Kaplan–Meier survival analysis was performed, and differences were assessed by the log-rank test. All tests were performed two-sided and identified statistically significant at a p-value of <0.05.

**RESULTS**

**Baseline Clinical Characteristics**
A total of 399 consecutive CAD patients with normal systolic function undergoing stress D-SPECT were analyzed (Figure 1). Mean age was 64.3 ± 9.3 years. Two hundred twenty-six (56.6%) patients (Group 1) had both normal rest and stress PFRs, 67 (16.8%) patients (Group 2) had normal rest and stress PFRs, and 106 (26.6%) patients (Group 3) had rest DD. Group 1 was more likely to be female and had higher heart rates at admission. Echocardiography data showed that LVEF was higher in group 1 than in group 2 and group 3. There were no statistical differences between three groups in the other baseline characteristics. The baseline characteristics of the patients are listed in Table 1.

**D-SPECT Parameters**
Table 2 shows MPI and LV functional parameters collected by D-SPECT. Group 2 and group 3 had higher EDV and end systolic volume (ESV) in both rest and stress tests. Group 1 had higher LVEF derived from D-SPECT in both rest and stress tests. Rest PFRs of three groups were 2.82 ± 0.76, 2.52 ± 0.98, and 1.71 ± 0.33 EDV/s, whereas stress PFRs of three groups were 2.70 ± 0.58, 1.78 ± 0.27, and 1.92 ± 0.43 EDV/s, respectively. Rest MFR/3 of three groups were 1.25 ± 0.36, 1.14 ± 0.33, and 1.02 ± 0.27 EDV/s, and stress MFR/3 of three groups were 1.27 ± 0.35, 1.06 ± 0.25, and 1.10 ± 0.31 EDV/s. However, LV diastolic function parameter and TTPF showed no statistical differences between three groups in both rest and stress tests. Furthermore, there were no significant differences in ischemic-related indicators including SRS, total perfusion defects (TPD), and transient ischemic dilation (TID) between three groups.

**Follow-Up**
Follow-up data were available for 399 patients (95.5%), and 19 patients (4.5%) were lost to follow-up. In the total cohort, 26 (6.5%) HFE were observed, including 26 HF admission, 6 worsening NYHA class, 7 reduction in LVEF >10%, and 1 CV death. The incidence of HFE of group 1 was the lowest (4.0%), followed by group 2 (7.5%), and group 3 had the highest incidence of HFE (11.3%) (p = 0.039). Follow-up data are presented in Table 3, and Kaplan–Meier curves for freedom from HFE are shown in Figure 2.

**Predictive Factors**
The results of Cox regression analysis are displayed in Table 4. Independent predictors of HFE in univariate analysis were rest PFR (HR = 2.223, 95% CI, 1.031–4.797; p = 0.042), DM (HR = 2.221, 95% CI, 1.029–4.791; p = 0.042), obesity (HR = 2.519, 95% CI, 1.095–5.795; p = 0.030), and old age (>65 years old) (HR = 2.302, 95% CI, 1.044–5.075; p = 0.039). After adjustment of all variables, which is statistically significant in the univariate analysis, the multivariate predictors of HFE were still rest PFR (HR = 2.766, 95% CI, 1.244–6.150; p = 0.013), DM (HR = 2.201, 95% CI, 1.014–4.773; p = 0.013), obesity (HR = 3.332, 95% CI, 1.395–7.960; p = 0.007), and old age (HR = 2.631, 95% CI, 1.174–5.899; p = 0.019).

**DISCUSSION**
The objective of the present study was to determine the prognostic value of DD derived from D-SPECT in CAD patients with normal ejection fraction. Our major findings were (1) CAD...
TABLE 4 | Independent predictors of HFE.

| Predictors            | Independent HR | p-Value | Adjusted HR | p-Value |
|-----------------------|----------------|---------|-------------|---------|
| Rest PFR              | 2.223 (1.031–4.797) | 0.042   | 2.766 (1.244–6.150) | 0.013   |
| Stress PFR            | 1.732 (0.803–3.736) | 0.162   |             |         |
| Ischemia-related DD   | 1.206 (0.455–3.204) | 0.705   |             |         |
| DM                    | 2.221 (1.029–4.791) | 0.042   | 2.201 (1.014–4.773) | 0.013   |
| Obesity               | 2.519 (1.096–5.795) | 0.030   | 3.332 (1.395–7.960) | 0.007   |
| Old age               | 2.302 (1.044–5.075) | 0.039   | 2.631 (1.174–5.899) | 0.019   |

PFR, peak filling rate; DD, diastolic dysfunction; DM, diabetes mellitus.

patients with normal ejection fraction and DD derived from D-SPECT were associated with worse prognosis, and (2) the multivariable predictors of HFE in CAD patients with normal ejection fraction were obesity, DM, and rest DD. Echocardiography has by far played a central role in the evaluation of DD, and there have been definitive diagnostic criteria for DD recommended from the ASE guideline (10). DD is present if more than half of the available recommended parameters meet their cut-off values including septal e’ < 7 cm/s, lateral e’ < 10 cm/s, average E/e’ ratio > 14, left atrial volume index > 34 ml/m², and peak tricuspid regurgitation velocity > 2.8 m/s. Previous studies demonstrated the feasibility to quantitate the diastolic function parameters with SPECT, and the thresholds for abnormal PFR and abnormal TTPF were 1.7 EDV/s and 208 ms, respectively (18, 23). Compared with conventional SPECT, D-SPECT with dedicated cardiac CZT cameras has more favorable sensitivity, specificity, and accuracy with a low-dose and ultra-fast protocol (13–15). However, there is no optimal cut-off value recommended from guideline for PFR to diagnose DD with D-SPECT. A previous study stipulated that the presence of abnormal diastolic function assessed by CZT-SPECT existed when PFR was <2.0 EDV/s (24). A recent study demonstrated that PFR and TTPF derived from CZT-SPECT showed a good correlation with the diastolic function parameters obtained by echocardiography (11). Accordingly, PFR <2.1 EDV/s was selected as the definition of an abnormal result in the present study. Despite the lack of an optimal threshold that reflects abnormal PFR, the primary concept is that a low PFR is indicative of abnormal diastolic function, which represents risk of future adverse clinical outcomes. Since there is a lack of confirmation of cut-off value for DD, further studies should be done to confirm the threshold of PFR.

It is validated that myocardial ischemia is associated with DD derived from echocardiography (10, 25). One of the clinical manifestations of myocardial ischemia is abnormal relaxation and DD (26, 27). Previous studies showed that in the community population, DD defined by echocardiography is common and is associated with significant increase in all-cause mortality (1, 28). Moderate to severe DD was present in 10% of stable CAD patients with normal ejection fraction, and no history of HF is predictive of subsequent hospitalization for HF and incidence of cardiovascular and all-cause death (8, 9). A recent study demonstrated that positive diastolic stress test assessed by echocardiography predicted more HFE than negative diastolic stress test (29). In addition, the severity and extent of non-obstructive and also obstructive CAD is associated with measures of worsening diastolic function (7). Furthermore, the survival of patients with HF with preserved ejection fraction was comparable with that of patients with reduced ejection fraction (30, 31). Therefore, early identification of DD might be of significant value for risk stratification of CAD patients with normal ejection fraction. Despite the poor prognosis of DD assessed by echocardiography is validated, the prognosis of DD derived by SPECT is lacking. This study was designed to evaluate the prognostic value of diastolic function derived from D-SPECT in CAD patients with normal systolic function. The present study showed that CAD patients with DD and normal ejection fraction were associated with worse prognosis. Despite the validated association between DD and myocardial ischemia, our results showed that there were no significant differences in ischemic-related indicators from MPI between three groups. One of the surprising results was that the prognosis of patients with abnormal stress PFR and normal rest one was better than those with abnormal rest PFR. Patients with rest DD predicted more HFE. The principal reason for this phenomenon might be that in the present study, stress testing was performed with pharmacological stress, and as a result, the prognosis might be different with those undergoing treadmill exercise stress. To the best of our knowledge, the present study is the first study to evaluate the prognostic value of diastolic parameters assessed by D-SPECT. Further large-scale studies and multicenter study design are required to confirm the results we obtained.

Several limitations should be considered in the present study. One of the primary limitations is that this study was a retrospective and observational analysis of diastolic function assessment with a D-SPECT camera, which accompanies an inherent bias due to the type of study design. Second, the final results might be interfered with percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) and the severity of coronary obstruction, and further studies with specific classification for CAD patients should be performed to avoid this problem. In the present study, we did not confirm the correlations between echocardiography indices of diastolic function and D-SPECT derived diastolic indices, which is necessary to define a PFR threshold for DD. Furthermore, we could not provide any information related to DSPECT and CAG comparisons among our patients. Compared with the previous studies, the follow-up period
of the present study was relatively short, which could have led to under-reporting of HFE. This study is single-centered, and the results might not be applicable in other research and camera designs, i.e., both CZT and conventional imaging. Consequently, multicenter randomized control trials and studies with more rational design are required to verify the results of the present study.

CONCLUSION

DD derived from D-SPECT in CAD patients with normal ejection fraction is predictive of HFE and worse prognosis.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The data analyzed in this study is subject to the following licenses/restrictions: Hospital regulations. Requests to access these datasets should be directed to chuyenliang@tongji.edu.cn.

ETHICS STATEMENT

The studies involving human participants were reviewed and approved by Shanghai Tenth People's Hospital, Tongji University, Shanghai, China. The patients/participants provided their written informed consent to participate in this study. Written informed consent was obtained from the individual(s) for the publication of any potentially identifiable images or data included in this article.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

BX, FA, WC, HC, and FY: designed the study. LL, BX GY, A-QM, and SX: collected the data. BX, XL, RF, CF, TS, and WZ: were involved in data cleaning, follow-up, and verification. FA and WC: analyzed the data. BX, FA, YX, and WC: drafted the manuscript and revised it critically for important intellectual content. WC: approved the final version of the manuscript. All authors contributed to manuscript revision, read, and approved the submitted version.

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Those who contributed to the work and meet the authorship criteria are listed as authors of this article. We also are indebted to the participants of this study.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

The Supplementary Material for this article can be found online at: https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fcvm.2021.700027/full#supplementary-material
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Conflict of Interest: The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.