Jaker, S., Burgan, A., Prakash, V., Birkinshaw, A., Moosai, K., Jacques, A., Fluck, D., MacGregor, M., Lazariashvili, O., Sharma, P., Fry, C. H., & Han, T. S. (2020). Sex differences in the agreement between left ventricular ejection fraction measured by myocardial perfusion scintigraphy and by echocardiography. JRSM Cardiovascular Disease, 9. https://doi.org/10.1177/2048004020915393

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

License (if available):
CC BY-NC

Link to published version (if available):
10.1177/2048004020915393

Link to publication record in Explore Bristol Research

This is the final published version of the article (version of record). It first appeared online via Sage Publications at https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2048004020915393. Please refer to any applicable terms of use of the publisher.
Sex differences in the agreement between left ventricular ejection fraction measured by myocardial perfusion scintigraphy and by echocardiography

Sams Jaker1, Amjad Burgan1, Vineet Prakash1, Alexander Birkinshaw2, Kishan Moosai2, Adam Jacques2, David Fluck2, Mark MacGregor3, Otar Lazariashvili2,4, Pankaj Sharma4, Christopher H Fry5 and Thang S Han4

Abstract
Background: Left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) is generally measured by echocardiography but is increasingly available with myocardial perfusion scintigraphy. With myocardial perfusion scintigraphy, the threshold of LVEF below which there is a risk for myocardial infarct or sudden cardiac death is higher for women (51%) than for men (43%). We tested the hypothesis that such a sex difference may also occur with echocardiography and myocardial perfusion scintigraphy.

Methods: Four hundred and four men, mean age $\bar{x}$ = 67.7 ± SD = 12.3 yr; 339 women, 67.7 ± 11.7 yr had separate myocardial perfusion scintigraphy and echocardiography examinations within six months. A subset of 327 of these patients (181 men, 68.8 ± 12.1 yr; 146 women, 66.4 ± 12.1 yr) had examinations within one month and were additionally analysed as this sub-group. Myocardial perfusion scintigraphy and echocardiography were used to measure LVEF at rest and their agreement (neither considered as a reference method) was assessed by Bland–Altman plots: LVEF difference (myocardial perfusion scintigraphy minus echocardiography ) against average LVEF ($\frac{\text{MPS} + \text{Echo}}{2}$).

Results: Of patients who had myocardial perfusion scintigraphy and echocardiography performed within six months, mean LVEF difference $= +1.1\%$ (95% limits of agreement: $-19.3$ to $+21.6$) in men but $+10.9\%$ ($-10.7$ to $+32.5$) in women. LVEF difference diverged from zero marginally in men (mean difference $= +1.1\%$, 95%CI $= +0.1$ to $+2.1$, $p = 0.028$) but more in women ($+10.9$, $+9.8$ to $+12.1$, $p < 0.001$). The LVEF difference correlated with average LVEF itself in both men ($r = 0.305$, $p < 0.001$) and women ($r = 0.361$, $p < 0.001$), and with age in women ($r = 0.117$, $p = 0.031$). Similar results were observed for the subset.

Conclusions: Caution should be taken when interpreting LVEF measured by different techniques due to their wide limits of agreement and systematic bias, more markedly in women.

Keywords
Methods, bias, cardiology, nuclear medicine

Date received: 29 October 2019; revised 13 February 2020; accepted: 24 February 2020

1Department of Radiology, Ashford & St Peter’s Foundation Trust, Chertsey, UK
2Department of Cardiology, Ashford & St Peter’s Foundation Trust, Chertsey, UK
3Department of Anesthesia, Ashford & St Peter’s Foundation Trust, Chertsey, UK
4Institute of Cardiovascular Research, Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham, UK
5School of Physiology, Pharmacology and Neuroscience, University of Bristol, Bristol, UK

Corresponding author:
Thang S Han, Institute of Cardiovascular Research, Royal Holloway University of London, Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX, UK.
Email: thang.han@rhul.ac.uk

Creative Commons Non Commercial CC BY-NC: This article is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 License (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/) which permits non-commercial use, reproduction and distribution of the work without further permission provided the original work is attributed as specified on the SAGE and Open Access pages (https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/open-access-at-sage).
Introduction

Left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) is routinely used in clinical practice for diagnostic, prognostic and therapeutic procedures to measure left ventricular function and because of its low cost, availability and operational ease, echocardiography (Echo) is the most common. However, LVEF estimates are increasingly provided by other methods such as myocardial perfusion scintigraphy (MPS), computed tomography and cardiovascular magnetic resonance.

When LVEF is reported as an outcome measure, it is important to know which technique is used as data may not be interchangeable between methods, as each will have various measurement errors and intrinsic biases. To estimate the comparability of data between methods, an approach is to measure LVEF in the same subject by the two methods. This has been done when comparing values using two techniques such as Echo and MPS, or when comparing either method with a more invasive procedure such as ventriculography. Comparability is generally gauged by calculating the significance of a correlation coefficient when data pairs are plotted as a function of each other. However, such a correlation analysis ignores any systematic bias between the two methods: evident when a linear regression of data pairs does not have a slope of unity or the plot fails to approach the origin. An alternative approach is a Bland–Altman analysis whereby the difference in values by the two methods is presented against the average of these values. This detects any relative bias as well as emphasises the range of differences in each data pair that a regression plot displays less clearly. A few such analyses have compared different methods to estimate LVEF and in these both bias and a large variation of differences within data pairs were evident, which suggested interchange of data between different methods was not justified. However, several confounders may contribute to this negative conclusion that includes: the small number of patients in most individual studies, as well as either a preponderance of males or lack of information about the gender mix. The latter may be of significance as measurements of LVEF by MPS show that a threshold value below which the risk for myocardial infarct (MI) or sudden cardiac death increases is different for women (51%) and men (43%). By contrast, there was no evidence of sex-dependent differences if LVEF by echo was used as a prognostic indicator for severe cardiac events.

This study tested the hypothesis, using a large data-set of patients, that interchangeability of LVEF as measured by Echo and MPS is different in men and women.

Methods

Patients, setting and study design

Patients were referred for assessment of cardiac symptoms, including chest pain and dyspnoea, and for those undergoing cardiovascular surgery. A total of 1141 patients had LVEF measured both by resting MPS and by Echo. Of these, 743 patients (Group 1: 404 men and 339 women) had separate examinations within six months and their data were used for analysis. A subset of these patients (Group 1A: n = 327; 181 men and 246 women) had examinations within one month and were additionally analysed (Figure 1). All examinations were performed at a single centre between 30 November 2012 and 30 May 2017.

Anthropometric data and history of cardiopulmonary conditions

Data recorded at the time of LVEF measurements were collected including: weight and height for body mass index (BMI) calculation; history of cardiopulmonary conditions including MI; congestive heart failure (CHF); atrial fibrillation (AF); hypertension; cardiac interventions including coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) and percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI); chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD); and cardiac medications including beta-blockers.

Myocardial perfusion scintigraphy

Data from rest MPS investigations, performed with the injection of ⁹⁹ᵐTc-tetrofosmin (600–1000 MBq), were used. Images were obtained using dual-head SPECT cameras (Siemens Symbia S, Erlangen, Germany) and LVEF was determined from gated images as previously described.

Echocardiography

Rest Echo data were obtained with a high-end two-dimensional echocardiographic unit (Sonos 5500, Andover, MA, US or Vingmed System V, Horten, Norway). Images were acquired with standard parasternal, short-axis and apical views and LVEF was calculated by the modified Simpson’s biplane disks method. Analysis of images was performed by a cardiologist independent from the radiologist who evaluated the MPS measurements.
Statistical methods

Linear regression was used to assess the correlation between LVEF, measured either by MPS or Echo, by generating a regression coefficient ($r$). Bland–Altman analysis was performed by plotting and regressing LVEF difference (MPS minus Echo) against average LVEF ($\frac{MPS + Echo}{2}$) to assess bias, trend in bias and 95% limits of agreement (± 2SD of the mean of LVEF difference) between the two techniques. LVEF difference was also regressed against age and BMI to assess any influences from these factors. To determine effects of cardiopulmonary conditions (see above), LVEF difference was compared between groups of patients with a co-morbidity against those without using independent $t$-test. Within-group (e.g. in men or in women) differences in LVEF measured by the two methods were assessed by paired $t$-tests.

Results

For Group 1 patients ($n = 743$, 45.6% women), mean age (67.7 years) was the same in men and women (Table 1). Echo was performed before MPS in more patients ($n = 508$) than the alternative ($n = 235$), but conclusions were similar if the two subsets were analysed separately, therefore data for the entire patient set are presented. For Group 1A patients assessed within one month apart (rapid subset) by both methods, age was also similar between genders ($n = 327$, 44.6% women) and Echo was performed before MPS in 191 and after in 136 patients.

Table 2 shows the distribution of co-morbidities among men and women with obesity, AF and hypertension, MI, CHF, cardiac intervention, COPD and treatment with beta-blockers. Table 3 shows that the LVEF difference between MPS and Echo measured within six months apart was lower in men with MI, CHF, AF,
and treatment with beta-blockers compared to men without these conditions, and higher in women of older age and lower in women with CHF compared with younger women or women without CHF, respectively. A similar pattern was observed for LVEF difference measured by the two techniques one month apart.

Significant relationships (all \( p < 0.001 \)) were found between LVEF measured by Echo and MPS in men and women (Figure 2): for men \( r = 0.627 \) and \( r = 0.644 \), Group 1 and Group 1A respectively; for women \( r = 0.530 \) and \( r = 0.527 \), Group 1 and Group 1A, respectively. However, the slopes of the relationship were less than unity in all cases, and the intercept was significantly different from zero (Figure 2(a) to (d)). Moreover, mean values of LVEF were significantly greater by MPS compared to Echo in both men \( (p = 0.028) \) and women \( (p < 0.001) \). For men, the mean difference (MPS-Echo) was 1.1% or 1.3% for Groups 1 and 1A data. However, for women, the mean difference was much higher; 10.9 and 11.3%, respectively.

Bland–Altman analysis was conducted showing that among those who had MPS and Echo performed up

| Table 2. Proportions of men and women with different underlying co-morbidities and treatment. |
| MPS and Echo performed within six months apart \( (n = 743) \) | MPS and Echo performed within one month apart \( (n = 327) \) |
| --- | --- |
| Men (%) | Women (%) | Men (%) | Women (%) |
| BMI >30 kg/m² | 31.9 | 38.1 | 32.9 | 36.4 |
| AF | 24.3 | 19.9 | 25.2 | 18.0 |
| MI | 36.1 | 13.4 | 29.4 | 7.2 |
| CHF | 18.8 | 6.2 | 14.1 | 6.5 |
| Cardiac intervention | 39.9 | 16.5 | 33.5 | 10.1 |
| COPD | 13.0 | 6.9 | 16.0 | 9.4 |
| Hypertension | 64.9 | 61.1 | 63.2 | 56.1 |
| Beta-blockers | 56.3 | 41.7 | 52.3 | 37.7 |

| Table 3. Comparison of LVEF difference (MPS minus Echo) between patients with a condition against those without using independent t-test. |
| --- |
| Difference in 'LVEF difference' between group with co-morbidity against group without co-morbidity |
| Men | Women |
| Mean difference (%) | 95%CI | \( p \) | Mean difference (%) | 95%CI | \( p \) |
| Older minus younger age | 1.5 | −0.5 to 3.5 | 0.141 | 2.3 | 0.2 to 4.8 | 0.036 |
| BMI ≥ 30 kg/m² minus BMI < 30 kg/m² | −1.9 | −4.3 to 0.6 | 0.572 | −0.5 | −3.2 to 2.1 | 0.690 |
| MI minus no-MI | −2.4 | −6.6 to 0.2 | 0.031 | −3.2 | −6.7 to 0.2 | 0.068 |
| CHF minus no-CHF | −5.7 | −8.3 to −3.0 | < 0.001 | −9.7 | −14.5 to −4.9 | < 0.001 |
| AF minus no-AF | −5.6 | −10.0 to −0.7 | 0.013 | −1.4 | −4.4 to 1.5 | 0.346 |
| Cardiac intervention minus no-intervention | −2.0 | −4.2 to 0.1 | 0.068 | 0.6 | −2.6 to 3.8 | 0.718 |
| Hypertension minus no-hypertension | 0.1 | −2.1 to 2.3 | 0.923 | 0.0 | −2.4 to 2.4 | 1.000 |
| COPD minus no-COPD | 0.3 | −2.9 to 3.4 | 0.862 | 2.4 | −2.7 to 6.6 | 0.404 |
| Beta-blockers minus non-beta-blockers | −3.4 | −5.5 to −1.2 | 0.002 | −1.4 | −3.6 to 1.0 | 0.242 |

| Group 1A: MPS and Echo performed within one month apart |
| Older minus younger age | 1.1 | −1.8 to 4.0 | 0.464 | 1.2 | −2.4 to 4.8 | 0.511 |
| BMI ≥ 30 kg/m² minus BMI < 30 kg/m² | −1.6 | −5.2 to 2.0 | 0.384 | −0.2 | −4.3 to 4.0 | 0.931 |
| MI minus no-MI | −0.6 | −4.0 to −2.8 | 0.729 | −3.9 | −11.9 to 3.2 | 0.278 |
| CHF minus no-CHF | −6.1 | −10.5 to −1.7 | 0.007 | −12.2 | −19.4 to −5.1 | 0.001 |
| AF minus no-AF | −4.7 | −8.2 to −1.2 | 0.009 | −1.7 | −6.4 to 3.1 | 0.494 |
| Cardiac intervention minus no-intervention | −3.2 | −6.5 to 0.1 | 0.059 | 0.4 | −5.7 to 6.5 | 0.906 |
| Hypertension minus no-hypertension | 0.9 | −2.4 to 4.1 | 0.874 | 0.2 | −3.5 to 3.9 | 0.897 |
| COPD minus no-COPD | −1.4 | −5.7 to 2.8 | 0.507 | −2.3 | −8.6 to 4.0 | 0.471 |
| Beta-blockers minus non-beta-blockers | −2.6 | −5.8 to 0.5 | 0.104 | −1.8 | −5.6 to 2.1 | 0.364 |
to six months apart, the overall bias was +1.1% (-19.3 to +21.6) in men (Figure 3(a)) and +10.9% (-10.7 to +32.5) in women (Figure 3(b)). Difference in LVEF correlated with average LVEF in men ($r = 0.361$, $p < 0.001$) and women ($r = 0.392$, $p < 0.001$) but not with age. A one-sample $t$-test showed LVEF difference diverged from zero only marginally in men (mean difference = +1.1, 95%CI = +0.1 to +2.1, $p = 0.028$) but more in women (+10.9, +9.8 to +12.1, $p < 0.001$).

The overall bias (mean LVEF difference) was +1.3% (95% limits of agreement: -18.1 to +20.7) in men (Figure 3(c)) and +11.3% (-10.6 to +33.2) in women (Figure 3(d)). LVEF difference correlated with average LVEF in men ($r = 0.361$, $p < 0.001$) and women ($r = 0.361$, $p < 0.001$), and with age in women only ($r = 0.117$, $p = 0.031$). LVEF difference diverged from zero only marginally in men (mean difference = +1.0, 95%CI = +0.2 to +1.9, $p = 0.015$) but more markedly in women (mean difference = +11.1, 95%CI = +10.2 to +12.0, $p < 0.001$).

Linear stepwise multiple regression analysis was conducted to regress LVEF differences (dependent variable) on average LVEF, sex, age and co-morbidities (independent variables). All independent variables were entered simultaneously in the regression model using a forward selection method: only average LVEF, sex and age were retained as significant independent variables in the final model, while co-morbidities including obesity, AF, MI, CHF, cardiac intervention, COPD, hypertension and beta-blocker treatment were eliminated. For group 1: mean difference (MPS-Echo) = 0.398 x Average LVEF – 6.0 x sex (0 for women, 1 for men) + 0.122 x Age – 24.3 (coefficient of determination ($r^2$) = 28%, $p < 0.001$); for group 1A: mean difference (MPS-Echo) = 0.449 x Average LVEF – 6.2 x sex (0 for women, 1 for men) + 0.135 x Age – 28.3 ($r^2$ = 31%, $p < 0.001$).

Figure 2. Scatter plot for the relationship between LVEF measured by MPS and by Echo measured within six months (a) and within one month apart (b) in men and within six months (c) and within one month apart (d) in women. Solid line indicates regression line of best fit and dashed line indicates line of unity. Intercepts were significantly different from origin (indicated in brackets).
The present study found a marked systematic bias in LVEF measured by MPS and Echo in women compared to that in men, with wide limits of agreement between these two techniques. These results suggest that LVEF measured by different methods may not be used interchangeably in either clinical or research settings. In particular, our observations of sex differences in LVEF estimated by Echo and especially by MPS and have not been previously reported. These findings are highly valuable when interpreting results by different methods and would have profound implications on diagnosis, prognostication of cardiac outcomes and therapy. These sex differences may also explain the observation of sex differences in LVEF as prognostic indicators of myocardial infarction and cardiac death.17

There are a number of published papers assessing relationships between LVEF measured by MPS and Echo using a linear regression technique to provide correlation coefficients.8,9,11,12 However, only a few of these studies assessed agreement between methods using Bland–Altman technique.8,12 Scatter plots of LVEF measured by MPS or by Echo in our study confirm the deficiency of a correlation approach; the linear regression line deviated from origin indicating the presence of a bias. Furthermore, most previous studies recruited small numbers of participants (between 30 and 80) with unknown sex balance or preponderantly men. Our analyses of 743 participants divided approximately equally between men and women are, to our knowledge, the largest of its kind, providing a greater level of confidence.

**Figure 3.** Bland and Altman plot between LVEF difference against mean LVEF to assess bias and agreement between LVEF measured by MPS and Echo within six months apart (a: men and b: women) or within one month apart (c: men and d: women). Solid line indicates the mean of overall bias between methods (MPS minus Echo) dashed lines indicate 95% limits of agreement.
in our findings. Findings from our study suggest that while a good correlation exists between LVEF measured by MPS or Echo, there is a significant bias engendered by one method compared to the other, especially when measurements were made on women.

Both MPS and Echo are techniques used in clinical setting and neither is considered as a ‘reference method’. Therefore, it is not certain if one method overestimates or the other underestimates the ‘true’ LVEF value. The observation of correlations between LVEF differences and average LVEF suggests a relatively lower value by Echo in patients with lower LVEF and relatively higher value by MPS in patients with higher LVEF. Joffe et al.14 examined LVEF measured by Echo and ventriculography in 741 men and women. Both sexes were analysed together and it was found that the 95% limits of agreement (+20% and −20%) of LVEF measured by Echo and ventriculography were in a similar range as those found in our study. We found that sex differences between MPS and Echo to be remarkably similar to differences in LVEF thresholds performed by MPS in the prediction of myocardial infarct and cardiac mortality.17

Stepwise regression analysis revealed that LVEF values measured by MPS were increasingly higher than those by Echo in those with higher LVEF measurements or older age and these values were lower in men than in women, while obesity, MI, AF, CHF, COPD, hypertension and beta-blockers were not related to trends in bias. It would be of interest to examine the agreement of these two methods in patients with abnormal ejection fraction, but there were not enough numbers in the present study with such a group of patients.

Our data however cannot completely explain sex differences between method agreement on LVEF measurement but men with MI, CHF, AF and medications such as beta-blockers and women of older age and CHF had significant influences on LVEF difference between MPS and Echo. It is therefore important to recalibrate either or both MPS and Echo and take underlying co-morbidities into account to provide consistency between methods, but this would require the use of a standard method for cross-reference for these two techniques. A potential bias not examined in our study is that the acoustic window for Echo in women can be suboptimal. Women also generally have a relatively larger amount of subcutaneous adipose tissue for a given BMI than men23 which may have some bearing on Echo measurement. Because of its low cost and operational ease, Echo is widely used for assessing LVEF. However, this method has a number of drawbacks because it is operator-dependent and relies on geometric assumptions such that the measurements can be erroneous in patients with ventricular defects including those with dilated, remodelled ventricles.24,25

MPS, which is increasingly used for cardiac stratification, also computes LVEF. MPS also suffers limitations, including high cost, involving radiation exposure (especially for patients undergoing repeat testing),26 requirement of highly trained specialists and its unreliability in the presence of arrhythmias or tachycardia.9,24

Strengths and limitations of the study

The strengths of the present study lie in its large numbers of subjects. Together with the use of Bland–Altman analysis, we are confident that our findings are robust. The present study examined a wide range of measurements that may have some bearing on outcomes of the results such as BMI, drug therapy and co-morbidities. Ideally, the two methods should be done within a short time of each other because any differences could be due to changes of cardiac function. Joffe et al.14 found that an interval of up to seven days, between LVEF measured by Echo and by left ventriculography made little contribution to variation in test results. This study analysed MPS and Echo data when measured within six months apart and found very similar data when measured only one month apart, suggesting no significant population deterioration over this time-frame.

Conclusions

Caution should be taken when interpreting LVEF measured by MPS and Echo, especially in women, due to their wide limits of agreement and systematic bias.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank patients who underwent cardiac investigations and treatment in the present study and colleagues from Department of Cardiology, Ashford & St Peter’s NHS Foundation Trust.

Contributorship

TSH wrote the first draft and analysed the data. CHF and TSH edited the manuscript. SJ, AB, AB, KM, OT collected additional data. AJ, DF, VP, MMcG, DF and PS commented on the paper. All authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

Declaration of conflicting interests

The author(s) declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.
Ethical approval
All procedures performed in studies involving human participants were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional and/or national research committee and with the 1964 Helsinki declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards.

Funding
The author(s) received no financial support for the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

Guarantor
TSH.

ORCID iD
Thang S Han https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2570-0938

Provenance
Invited contribution.

References
1. Wood MJ and Picard MH. Utility of echocardiography in the evaluation of individuals with cardiomyopathy. *Heart* 2004; 90: 707–712.
2. Visser A, van de Ven EM, Ruczynski LI, et al. Cardiac monitoring during adjuvant trastuzumab therapy: guideline adherence in clinical practice. *Acta Oncol* 2016; 55: 423–429.
3. Lancellotti P, Galderisi M, Edvardsen T, et al. Echo-Doppler estimation of left ventricular filling pressure: results of the multicentre EACVI EuroFilling study. *Eur Heart J Cardiovasc Imaging* 2017; 18: 961–968.
4. MacGregor MG, Donald N, Rahim A, et al. Utility of MPS in AAA repair and prognostication of cardiovascular events and mortality. *Br J Cardiol* 2018; 25: 150–151.
5. Luo J and Prasad V. The US Food and Drug Administration’s use of pathologic complete response as regulatory endpoint: did it pay off? *J Cancer Pol* 2018; 16: 49–51.
6. Zoghbi WA, Adams D, Bonow RO, et al. Recommendations for noninvasive evaluation of native valvular regurgitation: a report from the American Society of Echocardiography developed in collaboration with the Society for Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance. *J Am Soc Echocardiogr* 2017; 30: 3033–3071.
7. Pellikka PA, She L, Holly TA, et al. Variability in ejection fraction measured by echocardiography, gated single-photon emission computed tomography, and cardiac magnetic resonance in patients with coronary artery disease and left ventricular dysfunction. *JAMA Netw Open* 2018; 1: e181456.
8. Vourvouri EC, Poldermans D, Bax JJ, et al. Evaluation of left ventricular function and volumes in patients with ischaemic cardiomyopathy: gated single-photon emission computed tomography versus two-dimensional echocardiography. *Eur J Nucl Med*. 2001; 28: 1610–1615.
9. Godkar D, Bachu K, Dave B, et al. Comparison and correlation of invasive and noninvasive methods of ejection fraction measurement. *J Natl Med Assoc* 2007; 99: 1227–1228.
10. Emmett L, Ng A, Ha L, et al. Comparative assessment of rest and post-stress left ventricular volumes and left ventricular ejection fraction on gated myocardial perfusion imaging (MPI) and echocardiography in patients with transient ischaemic dilation on adenosine MPI: myocardial stunning or subendocardial hypoperfusion? *J Nucl Cardiol*. 2012; 19: 735–742.
11. Danesh-Sani SH, Zakavi SR, Oskoueian L, et al. Comparison between 99mTc-sestamibi gated myocardial perfusion SPECT and echocardiography in assessment of left ventricular volumes and ejection fraction – effect of perfusion defect and small heart. *Nucl Med Rev Cent East Eur* 2014; 17: 70–74.
12. Shojaieifard M, Ghaedian T, Yaghoobi N, et al. Comparison of gated SPECT myocardial perfusion imaging with echocardiography for the measurement of left ventricular volumes and ejection fraction in patients with severe heart failure. Research in cardiovascular medicine. *Res Cardiovasc Med*. 2015; 19: 5: e29005.
13. Garg N, Dresser T, Aggarwal K, et al. Comparison of left ventricular ejection fraction values obtained using invasive contrast left ventriculography, two-dimensional echocardiography, and gated single-photon emission computed tomography. *SAGE Open Med* 2016; 22: 4.
14. Joffe SW, Ferrara J, Chalian A, et al. Are ejection fraction measurements by echocardiography and left ventriculography equivalent? *Am Heart J* 2009; 158: 496–502.
15. Bland JM and Altman D. Statistical methods for assessing agreement between two methods of clinical measurement. *Lancet* 1986; 327: 307–310.
16. Han TS, Carter R, Currall JE, et al. The influence of fat free mass on prediction of densitometric body composition by bioelectrical impedance analysis and by anthropometry. *Eur J Clin Nutr* 1996; 50: 542–548.
17. Sharir T, Kang X, Germano G, et al. Prognostic value of poststress left ventricular volume and ejection fraction by gated myocardial perfusion SPECT in women and men: gender-related differences in normal limits and outcomes. *J Nucl Cardiol* 2006; 13: 495–506.
18. St John Sutton M, Pfeffer MA, Plappert T, et al. Quantitative two-dimensional echocardiographic measurements are major predictors of adverse cardiovascular events after acute myocardial infarction. The protective effects of captopril. *Circulation* 1994; 89: 68–75.
19. Lam CS, McEntegart M, Claggett B, et al. Sex differences in clinical characteristics and outcomes after myocardial infarction: insights from the Valsartan in Acute Myocardial Infarction Trial (VALIANT). *Eur J Heart Fail* 2015; 17: 301–312.
20. Germano G, Kiat H, Kavanagh PB, et al. Automatic quantification of ejection fraction from gated myocardial perfusion SPECT. *J Nucl Med* 1995; 36: 2138–2147.

21. Otterstad JE. Measuring left ventricular volume and ejection fraction with the biplane Simpson’s method. *Heart* 2002; 88: 559–560.

22. Hatipoğlu S, Ozdemir N, Guler GB, et al. Left atrial expansion index is an independent predictor of diastolic dysfunction in patients with preserved left ventricular systolic function: a three-dimensional echocardiography study. *Int J Cardiovasc Imaging* 2014; 30: 1315–1323.

23. Han TS, Sattar N and Lean M. ABC of obesity: assessment of obesity and its clinical implications. *BMJ* 2006; 333: 695–698.

24. Foley TA, Mankad SV, Anavekar NS, et al. Measuring left ventricular ejection fraction-techniques and potential pitfalls. *Eur Cardiol* 2012; 8: 108–114.

25. Konstam MA, Kramer DG, Patel AR, et al. Left ventricular remodeling in heart failure: current concepts in clinical significance and assessment. *JACC Cardiovasc Imaging* 2011; 4: 98–108.

26. Einstein AJ, Weiner SD, Bernheim A, et al. Multiple testing, cumulative radiation dose, and clinical indications in patients undergoing myocardial perfusion imaging. *JAMA* 2010; 304: 2137–2144.