

Role of Three-Dimensional Echocardiography in Breast Cancer: Comparison With Two-Dimensional Echocardiography, Multiple-Gated Acquisition Scans, and Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Jonathan Walker, Navdeep Bhullar, Nazanin Fallah-Rad, Matthew Lytwyn, Mehrdad Golian, Tielan Fang, Arthur R. Summers, Pawan K. Singal, Ivan Barac, Iain D. Kirkpatrick, and Davinder S. Jassal

See accompanying editorial on page 3407 and articles on pages 3416 and 3422

ABSTRACT

Purpose

In patients with breast cancer, the administration of doxorubicin and trastuzumab is associated with an increased risk of cardiotoxicity. Although multiple-gated acquisition (MUGA) scans and two-dimensional transthoracic echocardiography (TTE) are conventional methods for baseline and serial assessment of left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) in these patients, little is known about the use of real-time three-dimensional TTE (RT3D TTE) in this clinical setting. The aim of this study was to assess the accuracy of MUGA, 2D TTE, and RT3D TTE for determining LVEF in comparison to cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (CMR).

Methods

Between 2007 and 2009 inclusive, 50 female patients with human epidermal growth factor receptor 2–positive breast cancer received adjuvant trastuzumab after doxorubicin. Serial MUGA, 2D TTE, RT3D TTE, and CMR were performed at baseline, 6, and 12 months after the initiation of trastuzumab.

Results

A comparison of left ventricular end diastolic volume (LVEDV) demonstrated a modest correlation between 2D TTE and CMR ($r = 0.64$ at baseline; $r = 0.69$ at 12 months, respectively). A comparison of LVEDV between RT3D TTE and CMR demonstrated a stronger correlation ($r = 0.87$ at baseline; $r = 0.95$ at 12 months, respectively). Although 2D TTE demonstrated a weak correlation with CMR for LVEF assessment ($r = 0.31$ at baseline, $r = 0.42$ at 12 months, respectively), both RT3D TTE and MUGA showed a strong correlation when compared with CMR ($r = 0.91$ at baseline; $r = 0.90$ at 12 months, respectively).

Conclusion

As compared with conventional MUGA, RT3D TTE is a feasible, accurate, and reproducible alternate imaging modality for the serial monitoring of LVEF in patients with breast cancer.

J Clin Oncol 28:3429-3436. © 2010 by American Society of Clinical Oncology

INTRODUCTION

Breast cancer and cardiovascular disease are major public health concerns in North America. These two diseases are intricately involved as treatment of one disease may lead to detrimental effects in the other. Although the current combination of surgical resection, radiotherapy, and chemotherapy may lead to remission in patients with breast cancer, the administration of chemotherapeutic-based agents, in particular doxorubicin, is associated with an increased risk of cardiotoxicity.¹⁻⁴ The introduction of novel monoclonal antibodies in breast cancer

therapy, which target growth factor receptors, further compounds this issue of drug-induced cardiac dysfunction.

Trastuzumab (Herceptin; Genentech, South San Francisco, CA), a humanized monoclonal antibody against the extracellular domain of the human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2) protein,⁵ is used in both the adjuvant and metastatic settings of breast cancer.⁶⁻¹² Despite its clear therapeutic benefits, cardiotoxicity is a major concern, especially when trastuzumab is used in combination with anthracyclines. Although clinical trials have demonstrated that the risk of developing asymptomatic

From the Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences, Cardiology Division, St Boniface General Hospital, University of Manitoba; and the National Research Council of Canada, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

Submitted October 19, 2009; accepted April 7, 2010; published online ahead of print at www.jco.org on June 7, 2010.

Supported by the Manitoba Medical Services Foundation, St Boniface General Hospital and Research Foundation, and the Health Sciences Centre Research Foundation. J.W. is a recipient of the Manitoba Health and Research Council studentship award; P.K.S. is the holder of the Naranjan S. Dhalla chair in Cardiovascular Research supported by the St Boniface Hospital and Research Foundation; and D.S.J. is the recipient of the F.W. Du Val clinical research professorship and Heart and Stroke Foundation New Investigator award.

Authors' disclosures of potential conflicts of interest and author contributions are found at the end of this article.

Corresponding author: Davinder S. Jassal, MD, FACC, FRCPC(C), Rm Y3010, Bergen Cardiac Care Centre, Cardiology Division, Department of Internal Medicine, St Boniface General Hospital, 409 Taché Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, R2H 2A6; e-mail: djassal@sbgh.mb.ca.

© 2010 by American Society of Clinical Oncology

0732-183X/10/2821-3429/\$20.00

DOI: 10.1200/JCO.2009.26.7294

left ventricular (LV) systolic dysfunction after receiving trastuzumab is up to 10%,¹³⁻¹⁷ recent studies have shown an even higher risk of nearly one in four women developing this drug-induced cardiomyopathy, albeit reversible in a majority of cases.¹⁸⁻²⁰

Serial monitoring of LV ejection fraction (LVEF) using noninvasive cardiac imaging is the most important clinical diagnostic tool in early recognition of cardiac dysfunction.²¹⁻²⁴ Multiple-gated acquisition scans (MUGA) and two-dimensional transthoracic echocardiography (2D TTE) are conventional methods for baseline and serial assessment of LV systolic function in patients with breast cancer undergoing chemotherapy.²²⁻²⁴ Although MUGA measurements are highly reproducible with a low intraobserver and interobserver variability, there is the issue of radiation and inaccurate LVEF measurements in patients with underlying arrhythmias.²²⁻²⁴

TTE is commonly used either as an alternative imaging modality for serial assessment of LVEF in patients with breast cancer or as confirmation of a poor LVEF detected by MUGA. Despite the portability, lack of radiation, ease of use, and increased availability of TTE for monitoring LVEF, two-dimensional echo has poorer intra- and interobserver variability in this clinical setting.²⁵ Although cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (CMR) is considered the gold standard for the noninvasive assessment of LVEF in myocardial disorders, including chemotherapy- and trastuzumab-induced cardiac dysfunction,^{26,27} its high cost and low availability at most centers preclude its use for serial monitoring of cardiotoxicity in patients with breast cancer.

The recent introduction of real-time three-dimensional TTE (RT3D TTE) has shown to be a feasible and reliable method of assessing LVEF in patients with a range of cardiovascular diseases.²⁸⁻³⁸ Using CMR as the gold standard, RT3D TTE is more accurate at assessing LV volumes and LVEF, in comparison to 2D TTE.²⁸⁻⁴⁰ Little is known, however, about the use of RT3D TTE for serial monitoring of LVEF in the breast cancer setting.

The aim of this study was to assess the consistency of MUGA, 2D TTE, and, in particular, RT3D TTE for determining LVEF in comparison to CMR in a breast cancer population receiving doxorubicin and trastuzumab in the adjuvant setting.

METHODS

From January 2007 to August 2009 inclusive, 50 consecutive female patients were prospectively identified to have received trastuzumab in the adjuvant setting of HER2-overexpressing breast cancer at a tertiary care oncology center. Eligible patients with breast cancer had either node-positive disease of any tumor size or node-negative disease, if on pathologic examination the tumor size was greater than 1 cm. After therapy with either fluorouracil, epirubicin, and cyclophosphamide (FEC) 100 or adriamycin and cyclophosphamide (AC), all 50 patients received adjuvant trastuzumab at a loading dose of 8 mg/kg of body weight, one time intravenously, followed by maintenance doses of 6 mg/kg every 3 weeks for 1 year. Patients with underlying atrial fibrillation, interventricular conduction delay, or contraindication to undergo a CMR imaging were excluded from this study.

Before initiation of trastuzumab and serially at 6 and 12 months, all 50 patients received MUGA, 2D TTE, RT3D TTE, and CMR examinations. All patients were in sinus rhythm and all imaging exams were performed within 1 week of each other. The study protocol was approved by the local institutional review board.

Serial MUGA scans were evaluated in all 50 patients using standard established guidelines to determine LVEF.⁴¹ Specifically, erythrocyte labeling was done using in vivo or modified in vitro method with technetium 99m-labeled RBCs with an activity of approximately 11 to 13 MBq/kg. Images were acquired with a Siemens e-cam gamma camera (Siemens, Erlangen, Germany) equipped with a parallel hole, high-resolution general purpose collimator, with energy window of 20% symmetrically placed over a photopeak of 140 keV. Data were acquired in EKG-synchronized frame mode using 24 frames per cardiac cycle, with 64 × 64 matrix of 16-bit pixels for approximate pixel size of 2 to 4 mm. Acquisition times were adjusted to achieve a minimum of 200,000 counts per frame. Patients were resting and supine and the best septal view was individually adjusted from 45-degree left anterior oblique position with 10° to 15° caudal tilt. Scintigrams were smoothed off-line using standard algorithms and the LV region of interest, as well as background activity, were selected automatically by the computer program (E. Soft; Siemens Medical Solutions) with manual correction by the interpreting physicians as deemed necessary. LV time-activity curves were constructed and LVEF was calculated as $LVEF = (\text{background-corrected end-diastolic counts} - \text{background corrected end-systolic counts}) / (\text{background-corrected end-diastolic counts})$.

Serial TTE was performed using 2D and 3D techniques on a GE Vivid 7 platform (GE, Milwaukee, IL). For 2D TTE, parasternal and apical views were obtained using a standard echocardiograph (GE Vivid 7; GE) with a multifrequency transducer. LV cavity dimensions and LVEF were determined from two-dimensional images according to established criteria, including the modified biplane Simpson's method.⁴² Measurements of LV end diastolic volume (LVEDV), LV end systolic volume (LVESV), and LVEF were obtained using off-line analysis.⁴²

RT3D TTE was performed using a dedicated broadband, wide angle, matrix array transducer to acquire the entire LV cavity within the pyramidal scan volume. Acquisition of full volume data sets was triggered to the R wave of every cardiac cycle to allow for an acquisition time of four heart beats during breath hold. The subvolumes were automatically stitched to a sequence of full 3D volumes covering the entire LV, and stored digitally for offline analysis. The apical views were aligned to the standard four chamber, two chamber, and three chamber views using TomTec software (TomTec Imaging Systems, Unterschleissheim, Germany) to calculate LVEDV, LVESV, and LVEF.⁴³

Serial CMR was performed using a 1.5 T scanner (Avanto; Siemens). In conjunction with an ECG, a breath hold and a segmented TrueFISP sequence was performed in order to achieve 16 to 20 images, covering the entire cardiac cycle. The images that were obtained were two long-axis views and six short-axis views, to cover the central two thirds of the ventricles, omitting the base and apex. The image field of view was 265 × 340 mm², the acquisition matrix was 160 × 256, the repetition time was 3.14 ms, with an echo time of 1.57 ms, bandwidth/pixel of 930 Hz, k-space line per segment of 24, and a breath-hold duration of 10 seconds for 2 slices. A 6-mm slice thickness

Table 1. Baseline Clinical Characteristics of Study Population (n = 50)

Clinical Characteristic	No.	%
Mean age, years	52	
SD	8	
Mean BMI, kg/m ²	24	
SD	4	
CV risk factors		
Hypertension	5	10
Diabetes	4	8
Hyperlipidemia	6	12
Smoking history	3	6
Family history of CAD	4	8

Abbreviations: SD, standard deviation; BMI, body mass index; CV, cardiovascular; CAD, coronary artery disease.

Table 2. Bland-Altman Graph Agreements Between 2D TTE, RT3D TTE, and MUGA Measurements of LVESV, LVEDV, and LVEF With Cardiac Magnetic Resonance As the Gold Standard at Baseline, 6 Months, and 12 Months Follow-Up

Parameter	LVESV (ml)		LVEDV (ml)		LVEF (%)		
	2D TTE	RT3D TTE	2D TTE	RT3D TTE	2D TTE	RT3D TTE	MUGA
Baseline							
Mean difference	-1.5	-0.47	-9.2	-1.5	5.24	-1.1	-0.52
SD	13.2	6.6	23.7	13.8	4.9	2.3	2.6
6-month follow-up							
Mean difference	-23.6	-6.8	-38.6	-14.5	-0.56	-1.1	-0.86
SD	28.8	11.6	32.7	15.4	7.7	1.9	2.0
12-month follow-up							
Mean difference	-15.7	-4.9	-36.3	-12.7	-3.7	-1.5	-0.3
SD	22.5	7.6	31.7	11.0	6.1	2.3	2.2

Abbreviations: LVESV, left ventricular end systolic volume; LVEDV, left ventricular end diastolic volume; LVEF, left ventricular ejection fraction; 2D TTE, two-dimensional transthoracic echocardiography; RT3D TTE, real time three-dimensional transthoracic echocardiography; MUGA, multiple-gated acquisition scans; SD, standard deviation.

with a 4-mm inter-slice gap was used to avoid major influences of partial volume effects.

The CMR images were analyzed using CMR⁴² (release 2.2.0; Circle Cardiovascular Imaging, Calgary, Alberta, Canada). Cardiac dimensions and LV systolic function were evaluated from two-dimensional images according to the Society for Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance guidelines.⁴⁵ Endocardial and epicardial contours of the ventricular walls were manually traced on all images containing the LV in each end-diastolic and end-systolic slice. The sum of the marked areas was used to calculate the end-diastolic volume (EDV) and the end-systolic volume (ESV). Stroke volume was calculated using the stroke volume = EDV - ESV formula. The EDV phase was

defined visually as the point when the image was at its largest volume, and the ESV was defined visually as the point when the image was at its smallest volume. Papillary muscles and trabeculae were excluded when doing the volume measurements.

The reproducibility of the LV volumes and LVEF by 2D TTE and RT3D TTE was evaluated by calculating the intra- and interobserver variability of both techniques. Intraobserver variability of 2D TTE and RT3D TTE measurements were assessed by the primary interpreter (D.J.) in 20 randomly selected patients. A second interpreter (T.F.) assessed interobserver variability in 20 other randomly selected patients. Both interpreters were blinded to the results of the other imaging techniques.

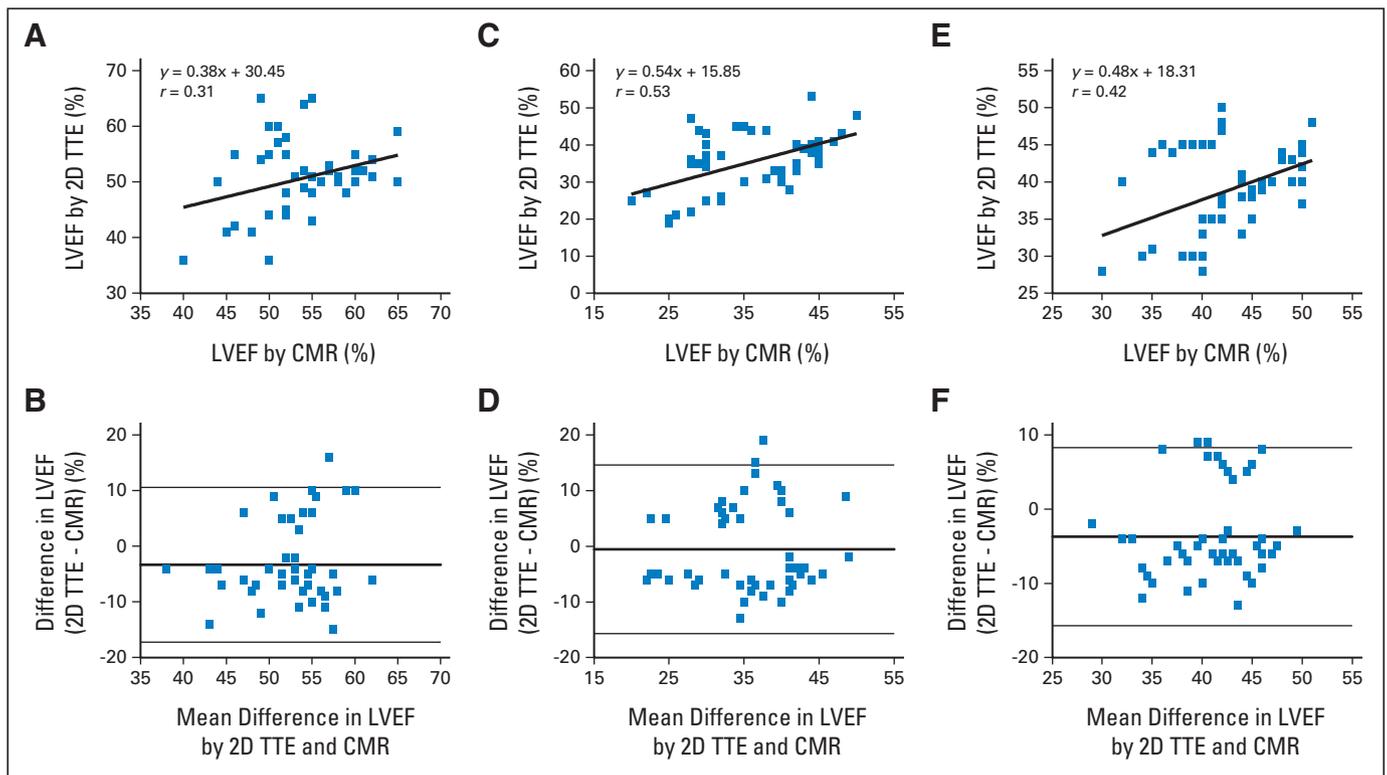


Fig 1. Linear regression and Bland-Altman plots comparing left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) of two-dimensional transthoracic echocardiography (2D TTE) versus cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (CMR) at (A,B) baseline, (C,D) 6 months, and (E,F) 12 months.

The data are summarized as mean with or without standard deviation (SD) or number and percentage. Linear regression analysis and Bland-Altman plots were used to compare LV volumes and LVEF between the various imaging modalities. The Bland-Altman method is a plot of the differences of the data on a chart with mean difference $\pm 1.96 \times$ SD of the differences.⁴⁶ The 95% agreement limits are $\pm 1.96 \times$ SD of the differences. A repeated measures analysis of variance was performed at baseline, 6-month, and 12-month time periods with the various imaging modalities used as within-subject factors. Tukey's multiple comparison test and Dunnett's test were used to check for any significant differences between the imaging modalities. Agreement between intra- and interobserver variability of the LV volumes and LVEF between the imaging modalities was computed from the absolute differences between repeated measurements using the Mann-Whitney *U* test. All tests were two sided, and a *P* value less than .05 was considered statistically significant. The Statistical Analysis packages (SAS version 9.01; SAS Institute, Cary, NC; Statistica software version 6.1; Statsoft, Tulsa, OK) were used to perform the analysis.

RESULTS

The study population included 50 patients (mean age [SD] 52 ± 8 years) with an average body mass index of 24 ± 4 kg/m². As presented in Table 1, there was a low prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors including hypertension, diabetes, hyperlipidemia, smoking history, and family history of coronary artery disease. All patients were in sinus rhythm with no underlying conduction abnormalities.

Serial assessment of LVESV on 2D TTE demonstrated a modest correlation ($r = 0.55$ at baseline; $r = 0.40$ at 6 months; $r = 0.59$ at 12 months, respectively) as compared with CMR. The LVESV on RT3D

TTE, however, demonstrated a stronger correlation with CMR ($r = 0.89$ at baseline; $r = 0.87$ at 6 months; and $r = 0.93$ at 12 months, respectively) with a slope considerably closer to 1.0. A comparison of LVESV using Bland-Altman analyses between 2D TTE, RT3D TTE, and CMR at baseline, 6, and 12 months are presented in Table 2. As compared with 2D TTE, RT3D TTE demonstrated tighter limits of agreement with a lower bias and SD in the noninvasive assessment of LVESV in comparison to CMR.

Serial assessment of LVEDV on 2D TTE demonstrated a modest correlation ($r = 0.64$ at baseline; $r = 0.50$ at 6 months; $r = 0.69$ at 12 months, respectively) as compared with CMR. The LVEDV on RT3D TTE, however, demonstrated a stronger correlation with CMR ($r = 0.87$ at baseline; $r = 0.82$ at 6 months; $r = 0.95$ at 12 months, respectively) with a slope considerably closer to 1.0. A comparison of LVEDV using Bland-Altman analyses between 2D TTE, RT3D TTE, and CMR at baseline, 6, and 12 months are presented in Table 2. Again, as compared with 2D TTE, RT3D TTE demonstrated tighter limits of agreement with a lower bias and SD in the noninvasive assessment of LVEDV in comparison to CMR.

LVEF measurements for 2D TTE, RT3D TTE, and MUGA in comparison to CMR reference values are shown in Figures 1, 2, and 3 and Table 2. The LVEF by 2D TTE yielded a weak correlation with CMR as shown in Figure 1 ($r = 0.31$ at baseline; $r = 0.53$ at 6 months; $r = 0.42$ at 12 months, respectively). In contrast, LVEF by RT3D TTE showed a strong correlation with CMR as shown in Figure 2 ($r = 0.91$ at baseline; $r = 0.97$ at 6 months; and $r = 0.90$ at 12 months, respectively). Similar to RT3D TTE, MUGA measurements for LVEF demonstrated a strong correlation to CMR reference measurements as

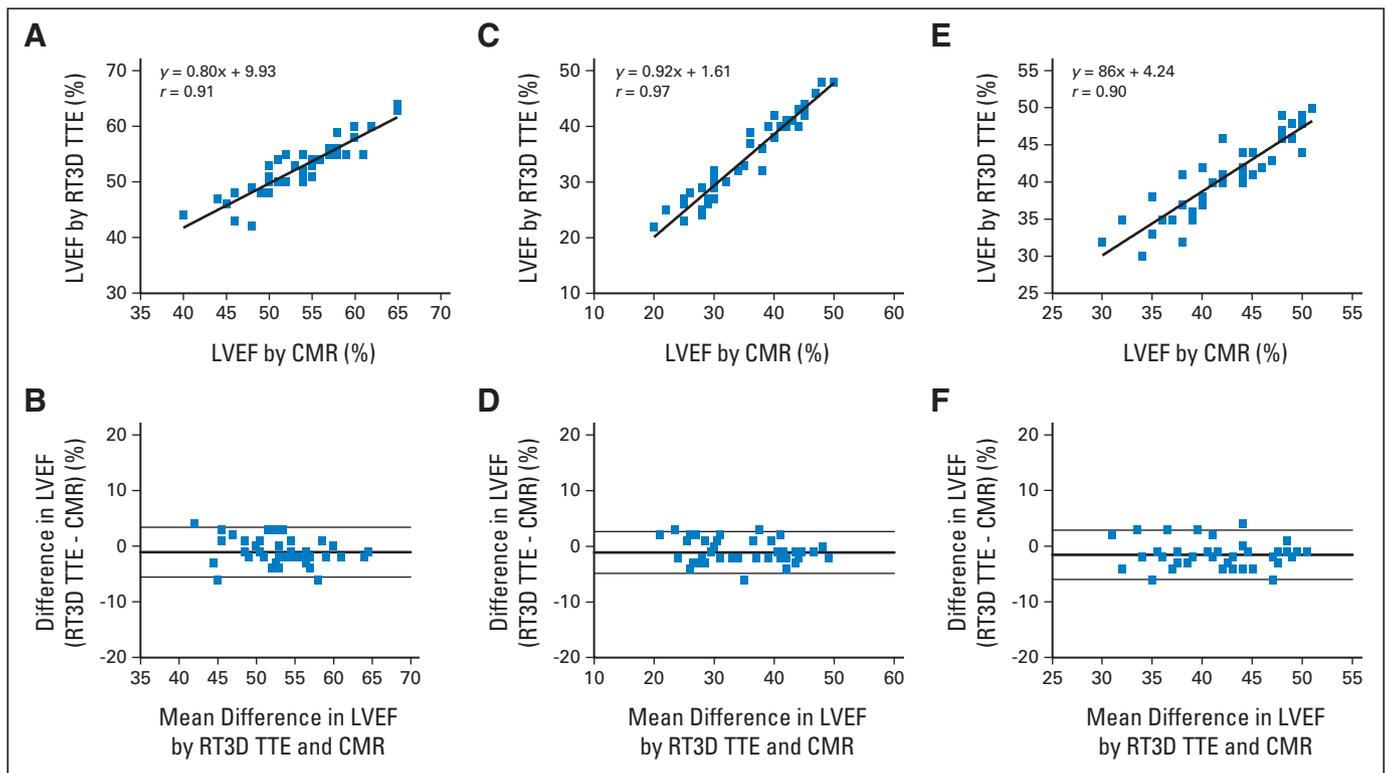


Fig 2. Linear regression and Bland-Altman plots comparing left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) of real-time three-dimensional transthoracic echocardiography (RT3D TTE) versus cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (CMR) at (A,B) baseline, (C,D) 6 months, and (E,F) 12 months.

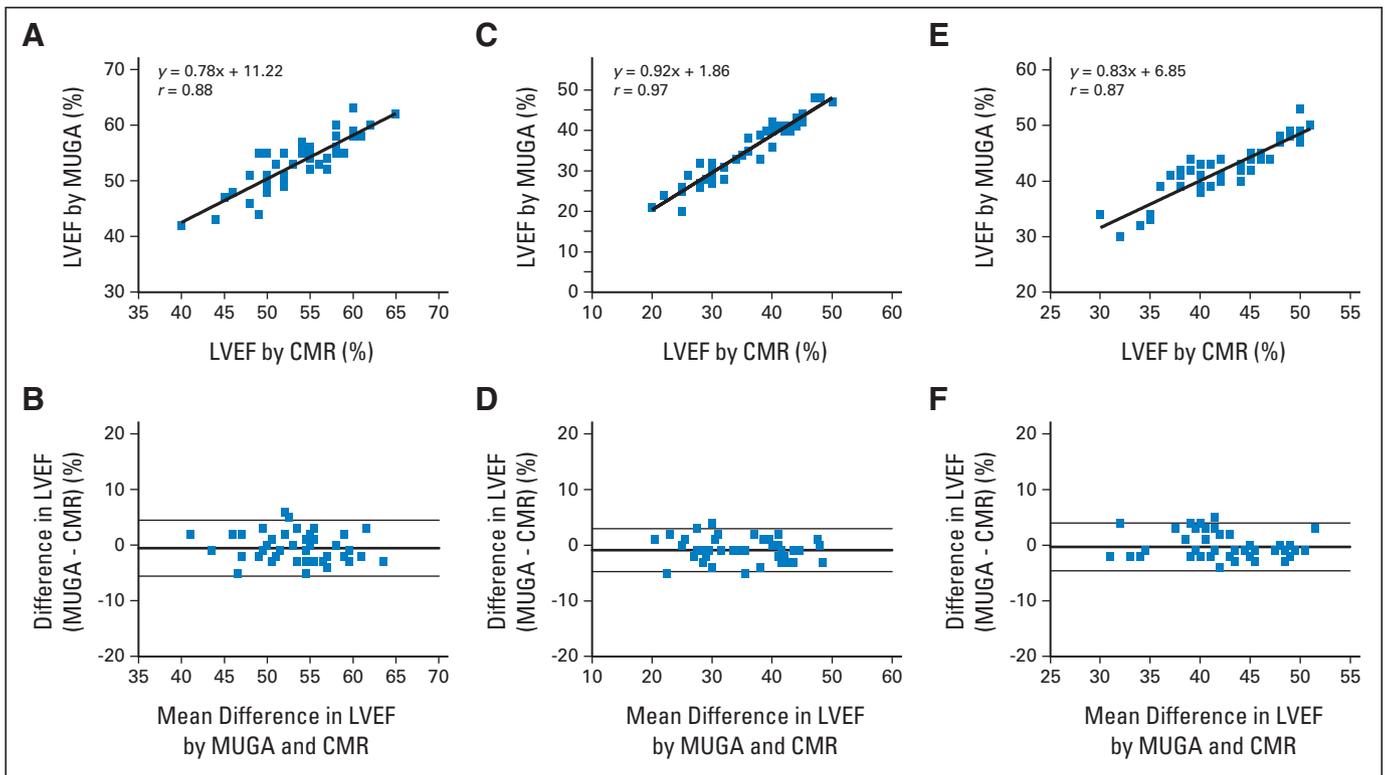


Fig 3. Linear regression and Bland-Altman plots comparing left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) of multiple-gated acquisition scans (MUGA) versus cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (CMR) at (A,B) baseline, (C,D) 6 months, and (E,F) 12 months.

shown in Figure 3 ($r = 0.88$ at baseline; $r = 0.97$ at 6 months; and $r = 0.87$ at 12 months, respectively). In addition to similar correlation values, both RT3D TTE and MUGA yielded similar Bland-Altman results as presented in Table 2. Comparing RT3D TTE with MUGA directly as shown in Fig 4, there was a strong correlation in LVEF determination ($r = 0.85$ at baseline; $r = 0.97$ at 6 months; and $r = 0.85$ at 12 months, respectively).

Table 3 demonstrates the results of the intraobserver and interobserver variability of LV volumes and LVEF derived from both techniques of echocardiography, revealing high reproducibility with RT3D TTE.

DISCUSSION

In this study, we demonstrated that for serial monitoring of LVEF in patients with breast cancer receiving adjuvant trastuzumab therapy after treatment with an anthracycline, RT3D TTE yields comparable measurements to those of conventional MUGA using CMR as the gold standard. RT3D TTE is a feasible and reproducible method for assessing accurate changes in LV volumes and LVEF as compared with 2D TTE in this patient population. Although our results indicate a slight underestimation of LVEF for RT3D TTE compared with MUGA, the correlation to CMR between both modalities is similar.

As with all potentially cardiotoxic treatments for breast cancer, MUGA and 2D TTE are the most widely used noninvasive cardiovascular imaging modality for serial assessment of cardiac dysfunction.²²⁻²⁴ The cardiotoxic effects of anthracycline and trastu-

zumab therapy are manifested by a decrease in LVEF.^{1-4,13-18} Discontinuation of trastuzumab is warranted if a significant decrease in LVEF is detected on MUGA.⁸⁻¹⁰ Although MUGA is commonly used for cardiac monitoring in this patient population, it is limited by cost, complexity, and use of ionizing radiation (equivalent to one or two chest x-rays) over serial examinations.²²⁻²⁴

TTE is a feasible alternative for the noninvasive assessment of LVEF in this patient population. A number of previous studies have compared the accuracy of LVEF by 2D TTE and MUGA in the setting of anthracycline-induced cardiotoxicity. In 2001, Nousiainen et al²¹ compared 2D TTE and MUGA in patients with lymphoma receiving doxorubicin treatment. Of 30 patients, radionuclide angiography demonstrated 10 patients (36%) with a reduced LVEF lower than 50%. Using 2D TTE in the same population however, only five patients (19%) demonstrated a reduced LVEF lower than 50%.²¹ In addition, a study of 21 children with leukemia and solid tumors underwent serial 2D TTE and MUGA monitoring concurrently while being treated with anthracyclines.⁴⁷ Two-dimensional TTE was significantly less sensitive for the detection of a decline in LVEF in comparison to MUGA. Whereas eight of 21 patients demonstrated a decrease in LVEF by more than 10% using MUGA, only three patients demonstrated LV systolic dysfunction using TTE.⁴⁷ Conventional 2D TTE is thus limited by its low sensitivity, specificity, and reproducibility in comparison to radionuclide imaging tests in patients receiving anthracyclines.^{21-24,47} These shortfalls in 2D TTE are due to constraints with foreshortening errors, reliance on geometric assumptions, dependency on acoustic windows, and variable operator skill.^{34,48}

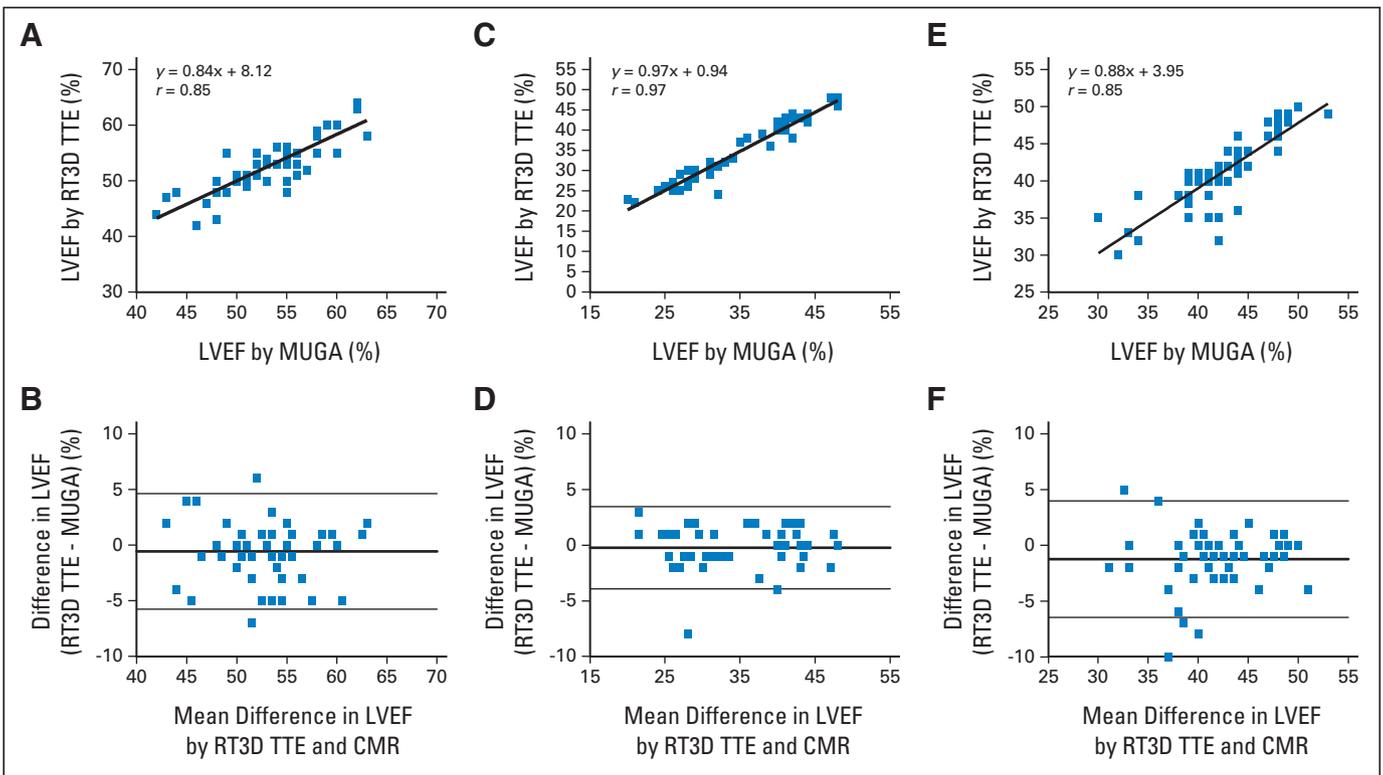


Fig 4. Linear regression and Bland-Altman plots comparing left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) of multiple-gated acquisition scans (MUGA) versus real-time three-dimensional transthoracic echocardiography (RT3D TTE) at (A,B) baseline, (C,D) 6 months, and (E,F) 12 months. CMR, cardiac magnetic resonance imaging.

Of all noninvasive imaging modalities, however, CMR is the most accurate and reproducible tool for the estimation of LV volumes and function.^{26,49,50} Using a 3D data set, CMR has been validated to be more accurate and reproducible compared with echocardiography.^{26,49,50} In addition, serial monitoring of patients with breast cancer to detect subtle changes in LV volumes and LVEF may be done with much higher certainty using CMR.⁵¹ The high cost, low availability, and requirement for highly trained specialists at most

centers however preclude its use for serial monitoring of cardiotoxicity in this clinical setting.

RT3D TTE accurately assesses LV morphology and function in normal populations and in various cardiovascular diseases.²⁸⁻³⁹ In healthy patients, RT3D TTE has demonstrated excellent correlation to reference CMR values using a number of methods including volume-time curve,³⁸ manual and semi-automatic border detection,³⁴ and rapid full-volume acquisition.^{33,36} In patients with congenital heart

Table 3. Intraobserver and Interobserver Variability in LV Volumes and LVEF

Parameter	Intraobserver				Interobserver			
	Absolute		%		Absolute		%	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
LVEDV (ml)								
2D TTE	12.2	6.4	11.8	5.3	14.2	4.5	9.8	4.2
RT3D TTE	8.3	4.4	6.8	3.7	9.6	3.1	6.4	3.4
LVESV (ml)								
2D TTE	13.1	6.2	10.4	5.5	12.2	5.5	9.4	5.1
RT3D TTE	7.1	3.4	5.2	2.8	9.1	2.9	7.3	3.1
LVEF (%)								
2D TTE	15.1	4.2	11.4	5.2	13.2	5.1	10.4	4.9
RT3D TTE	8.1	3.4	6.2	2.6	9.3	3.6	7.1	3.1

NOTE. Absolute values are population mean \pm SD of absolute differences between repeated measurements; % values are population mean \pm SD of absolute differences of repeated measurements normalized by the average of the two repeated measurements.

Abbreviations: LV, left ventricular; SD, standard deviation; LVEDV, left ventricular end-diastolic volume; LVESV, left ventricular end-systolic volume; LVEF, left ventricular ejection fraction; 2D TTE, two-dimensional transthoracic echocardiography; RT3D TTE, real-time three-dimensional transthoracic echocardiography.

diseases of various geometric abnormalities including dilated left ventricles, LV volumes and function were comparable using RT3D TTE and CMR with high agreement between both modalities.³⁷ In the setting of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, Bicudo et al³⁰ demonstrated that RT3D TTE is reliable in comparison to magnetic resonance imaging with strong observer agreements for calculating LV mass, volumes, and LVEF. Furthermore, the role of RT3D TTE has established utility in the setting of congestive heart failure and compares well with CMR.^{34,36,40}

This study highlights the potential application of RT3D TTE for monitoring LVEF in the breast cancer setting. To our knowledge, our study demonstrated for the first time that RT3D TTE is an accurate and practical method of screening for potential cardiotoxicity among patients with breast cancer receiving adjuvant trastuzumab treatment. Similar to MUGA, which has a small variability in LVEF, RT3D TTE provided accurate LV volumes and LVEF with high agreement to the gold standard of CMR. Ultimately, the choice of imaging technique for the clinician will be based on local availability. Although MUGA and 2D TTE will likely continue to be the modality of choice for serial assessment of LVEF in this adult patient population, RT3D TTE may be a feasible alternative.

Similar to other studies using RT3D TTE, this methodology is affected by the quality of the acoustic windows obtained by echocardiography. Although we were able to perform RT3D TTE in all patients in this study population, there will be patients in whom adequate echocardiographic windows will be difficult to attain due to underlying body habitus. In addition, although post processing of LV volumes and LVEF are time consuming, similar constraints hold true in the analysis of MUGA images. Future improvements in automated

detection of endocardial borders in RT3D TTE may facilitate application of this noninvasive method in the breast cancer setting.

As compared with conventional MUGA, RT3D TTE is a feasible, accurate, and reproducible alternate imaging modality for the serial monitoring of LVEF in patients with breast cancer receiving chemotherapy and adjuvant trastuzumab therapy.

AUTHORS' DISCLOSURES OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The author(s) indicated no potential conflicts of interest.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Conception and design: Jonathan Walker, Davinder S. Jassal

Administrative support: Davinder S. Jassal

Provision of study materials or patients: Davinder S. Jassal

Collection and assembly of data: Jonathan Walker, Navdeep Bhullar, Nazanin Fallah-Rad, Matthew Lytwyn, Mehrdad Golian, Tielan Fang, Davinder S. Jassal

Data analysis and interpretation: Jonathan Walker, Navdeep Bhullar, Nazanin Fallah-Rad, Matthew Lytwyn, Mehrdad Golian, Tielan Fang, Arthur R. Summers, Ivan Barac, Iain D. Kirkpatrick, Davinder S. Jassal

Manuscript writing: Jonathan Walker, Navdeep Bhullar, Mehrdad Golian, Arthur R. Summers, Pawan K. Singal, Ivan Barac, Davinder S. Jassal

Final approval of manuscript: Jonathan Walker, Navdeep Bhullar, Nazanin Fallah-Rad, Matthew Lytwyn, Mehrdad Golian, Tielan Fang, Arthur R. Summers, Pawan K. Singal, Ivan Barac, Iain D. Kirkpatrick, Davinder S. Jassal

REFERENCES

- Singal PK, Iliskovic N: Doxorubicin-induced cardiomyopathy. *N Engl J Med* 339:900-905, 1998
- Lefrak EA, Pitha J, Rosenheim S, et al: A clinicopathologic analysis of adriamycin cardiotoxicity. *Cancer* 32:302-314, 1973
- Keefe DL: Anthracycline-induced cardiomyopathy. *Semin Oncol* 28:2-7, 2001
- Ng R, Green MD: Managing cardiotoxicity in anthracycline-treated breast cancers. *Expert Opin Drug Saf* 6:315-321, 2007
- Carter P, Presta L, Gorman CM, et al: Humanization of an anti-p185HER2 antibody for human cancer therapy. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 89:4285-4289, 1992
- Vogel CL, Cobleigh MA, Tripathy D, et al: Efficacy and safety of trastuzumab as a single agent in first-line treatment of HER2-overexpressing metastatic breast cancer. *J Clin Oncol* 20:719-726, 2002
- Olin JJ, Muss HB: New strategies for managing metastatic breast cancer. *Oncology (Williston Park)* 14:629-641, 2000; discussion 642-644, 647-648, 2000
- Slamon DJ, Leyland-Jones B, Shak S, et al: Use of chemotherapy plus a monoclonal antibody against HER2 for metastatic breast cancer that overexpresses HER2. *N Engl J Med* 344:783-792, 2001
- Piccant-Gebhart MJ, Procter M, Leyland-Jones B, et al: Trastuzumab after adjuvant chemotherapy in HER2-positive breast cancer. *N Engl J Med* 353:1659-1672, 2005
- Romond EH, Perez EA, Bryant J, et al: Trastuzumab plus adjuvant chemotherapy for operable HER2-positive breast cancer. *N Engl J Med* 353:1673-1684, 2005
- Jahanzeb M: Adjuvant trastuzumab therapy for HER2-positive breast cancer. *Clin Breast Cancer* 8:324-333, 2008
- Rayson D, Richel D, Chia S, et al: Anthracycline-trastuzumab regimens for HER2/neu-overexpressing breast cancer: Current experience and future strategies. *Ann Oncol* 19:1530-1539, 2008
- Ewer SM, Ewer MS: Cardiotoxicity profile of trastuzumab. *Drug Saf* 31:459-467, 2008
- Guarneri V, Frassoldati A, Bruzzi P, et al: Multicentric, randomized phase III trial of two different adjuvant chemotherapy regimens plus three versus twelve months of trastuzumab in patients with HER2-positive breast cancer (Short-HER Trial; NCT00629278). *Clin Breast Cancer* 8:453-456, 2008
- Smith I, Procter M, Gelber RD, et al: 2-year follow-up of trastuzumab after adjuvant chemotherapy in HER2-positive breast cancer: A randomised controlled trial. *Lancet* 369:29-36, 2007
- Yaal-Hahoshen N, Safra T: Herceptin (trastuzumab): Adjuvant and neoadjuvant trials. *Isr Med Assoc J* 8:416-421, 2006
- Joensuu H, Kellokumpu-Lehtinen PL, Bono P, et al: Adjuvant docetaxel or vinorelbine with or without trastuzumab for breast cancer. *N Engl J Med* 354:809-820, 2006
- Wadhwa D, Fallah-Rad N, Grenier D, et al: Trastuzumab mediated cardiotoxicity in the setting of adjuvant chemotherapy for breast cancer: A retrospective study. *Breast Cancer Res Treat* 117:357-364, 2009
- McArthur HL, Barnett J, Chia S: A population-based study of trastuzumab-mediated cardiotoxicity among early stage breast cancer patients treated with adjuvant trastuzumab. *J Clin Oncol* 24:579s, 2006 (abstr 10640)
- Ewer MS, Vooletich MT, Durand JB, et al: Reversibility of trastuzumab-related cardiotoxicity: New insights based on clinical course and response to medical treatment. *J Clin Oncol* 23:7820-7826, 2005
- Nousiainen T, Vanninen E, Jantunen E, et al: Comparison of echocardiography and radionuclide ventriculography in the follow-up of left ventricular systolic function in adult lymphoma patients during doxorubicin therapy. *J Intern Med* 249:297-303, 2001
- Alexander J, Dainiak N, Berger HJ, et al: Serial assessment of doxorubicin cardiotoxicity with quantitative radionuclide angiocardiology. *N Engl J Med* 300:278-283, 1979
- Villani F, Meazza R, Materazzo C: Non-invasive monitoring of cardiac hemodynamic parameters in doxorubicin-treated patients: Comparison with echocardiography. *Anticancer Res* 26:797-801, 2006
- Ganz WI, Sridhar KS, Ganz SS, et al: Review of tests for monitoring doxorubicin-induced cardiomyopathy. *Oncology* 53:461-470, 1996
- Meinardi MT, van der Graaf WT, van Veldhuisen DJ, et al: Detection of anthracycline-induced cardiotoxicity. *Cancer Treat Rev* 25:237-247, 1999

26. Rajappan K, Bellenger NG, Anderson L, et al: The role of cardiovascular magnetic resonance in heart failure. *Eur J Heart Fail* 2:241-252, 2000
27. Altına R, Perik PJ, van Veldhuisen DJ, et al: Cardiovascular toxicity caused by cancer treatment: Strategies for early detection. *Lancet Oncol* 10:391-399, 2009
28. Jacobs LD, Salgo IS, Goonewardena S, et al: Rapid online quantification of left ventricular volume from real-time three-dimensional echocardiographic data. *Eur Heart J* 27:460-468, 2006
29. Takuma S, Ota T, Muro T, et al: Assessment of left ventricular function by real-time 3-dimensional echocardiography compared with conventional noninvasive methods. *J Am Soc Echocardiogr* 14:275-284, 2001
30. Bicudo LS, Tsutsui JM, Shiozaki A, et al: Value of real time three-dimensional echocardiography in patients with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy: Comparison with two-dimensional echocardiography and magnetic resonance imaging. *Echocardiography* 25:717-726, 2008
31. Lang RM, Mor-Avi V, Sugeng L, et al: Three-dimensional echocardiography: The benefits of the additional dimension. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 48:2053-2069, 2006
32. Bellenger NG, Burgess MI, Ray SG, et al: Comparison of left ventricular ejection fraction and volumes in heart failure by echocardiography, radionuclide ventriculography and cardiovascular magnetic resonance; are they interchangeable? *Eur Heart J* 21:1387-1396, 2000
33. Bu L, Munns S, Zhang H, et al: Rapid full volume data acquisition by real-time 3-dimensional echocardiography for assessment of left ventricular indexes in children: A validation study compared with magnetic resonance imaging. *J Am Soc Echocardiogr* 18:299-305, 2005
34. Gutiérrez-Chico JL, Zamorano JL, Pérez de Isla L, et al: Comparison of left ventricular volumes and ejection fractions measured by three-dimensional echocardiography versus by two-dimensional echocardiography and cardiac magnetic resonance in patients with various cardiomyopathies. *Am J Cardiol* 95:809-813, 2005
35. Kühl HP, Schreckenber M, Rulands D, et al: High-resolution transthoracic real-time three-dimensional echocardiography: Quantitation of cardiac volumes and function using semi-automatic border detection and comparison with cardiac magnetic resonance imaging. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 43:2083-2090, 2004
36. Pouleur AC, le Polain de Waroux JB, Pasquet A, et al: Assessment of left ventricular mass and volumes by three-dimensional echocardiography in patients with or without wall motion abnormalities: Comparison against cine magnetic resonance imaging. *Heart* 94:1050-1057, 2008
37. van den Bosch AE, Robbers-Visser D, Krenning BJ, et al: Real-time transthoracic three-dimensional echocardiographic assessment of left ventricular volume and ejection fraction in congenital heart disease. *J Am Soc Echocardiogr* 19:1-6, 2006
38. Zeidan Z, Erbel R, Barkhausen J, et al: Analysis of global systolic and diastolic left ventricular performance using volume-time curves by real-time three-dimensional echocardiography. *J Am Soc Echocardiogr* 16:29-37, 2003
39. Schmidt MA, Ohazama CJ, Agyeman KO, et al: Real-time three-dimensional echocardiography for measurement of left ventricular volumes. *Am J Cardiol* 84:1434-1439, 1999
40. Anwar AM, Nosir YF: Role of real time three-dimensional echocardiography in heart failure. *Echocardiography* 25:983-992, 2008
41. Corbett JR, Akinboboye OO, Bacharach SL, et al: Equilibrium radionuclide angiography. *J Nucl Cardiol* 13:e56-79, 2006
42. Lang RM, Bierig M, Devereux RB, et al: Recommendations for chamber quantification: A report from the American Society of Echocardiography's Guidelines and Standards Committee and the Chamber Quantification Writing Group, developed in conjunction with the European Association of Echocardiography, a branch of the European Society of Cardiology. *J Am Soc Echocardiogr* 18:1440-1463, 2005
43. Soliman OI, Krenning BJ, Geleijnse ML, et al: A comparison between QLAB and TomTec full volume reconstruction for real time three-dimensional echocardiographic quantification of left ventricular volumes. *Echocardiography* 24:967-974, 2007
44. Friedrich MG, Sechtem U, Schulz-Menger J, et al: Cardiovascular magnetic resonance in myocarditis: A JACC white paper. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 53:1475-1487, 2009
45. Kramer CM, Barkhausen J, Flamm SD, et al: Standardized cardiovascular magnetic resonance imaging (CMR) protocols, society for cardiovascular magnetic resonance: Board of trustees task force on standardized protocols. *J Cardiovasc Magn Reson* 10:35, 2008
46. Bland JM, Altman DG: Statistical methods for assessing agreement between two methods of clinical measurement. *Lancet* 1:307-310, 1986
47. Corapçoglu F, Sarper N, Berk F, et al: Evaluation of anthracycline-induced early left ventricular dysfunction in children with cancer: A comparative study with echocardiography and multigated radionuclide angiography. *Pediatr Hematol Oncol* 23:71-80, 2006
48. Jenkins C, Bricknell K, Hanekom L, et al: Reproducibility and accuracy of echocardiographic measurements of left ventricular parameters using real-time three-dimensional echocardiography. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 44:878-886, 2004
49. Strohm O, Schultz-Menger J, Pilz B, et al: Measurement of left ventricular dimensions and function in patients with dilated cardiomyopathy. *J Magn Reson Imaging* 13:367-371, 2001
50. Grothues F, Smith GX, Moon JC, et al: Comparison of interstudy reproducibility of cardiovascular magnetic resonance with two-dimensional echocardiography in normal subjects and in patients with heart failure or left ventricular hypertrophy. *Am J Cardiol* 90:29-34, 2002
51. Fallah-Rad N, Lytwyn M, Fang T, et al: Delayed contrast enhancement cardiac magnetic resonance imaging in trastuzumab induced cardiomyopathy. *J Cardiovasc Magn Reson* 10:5, 2008

