

Research

Open Access

## Myocardial involvement during the early course of type 2 diabetes mellitus: usefulness of Myocardial Performance Index

Paolo Pattoneri\*<sup>1</sup>, Fabiola B Sozzi<sup>2</sup>, Elisabetta Catellani<sup>3</sup>, Antonella Piazza<sup>3</sup>, Roberto Iotti<sup>3</sup>, Massimo Michelini<sup>3</sup>, Matteo Goldoni<sup>1</sup>, Alberico Borghetti<sup>1</sup>, Maria Domenica Cappellini<sup>4</sup> and Valeria Manicardi<sup>3</sup>

Address: <sup>1</sup>Department of Internal Medicine, Nephrology and Health Sciences, University of Parma, Italy, <sup>2</sup>IRCCS Cardiology, Fondazione Ospedale Maggiore, Milan, Italy, <sup>3</sup>Operative Unit of Internal Medicine, "E. Franchini" Hospital, Montecchio Emilia, Italy and <sup>4</sup>IRCCS Policlinico Foundation, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Milan, Milan, Italy

Email: Paolo Pattoneri\* - [pattopaolo@libero.it](mailto:pattopaolo@libero.it); Fabiola B Sozzi - [fabiola\\_sozzi@yahoo.it](mailto:fabiola_sozzi@yahoo.it); Elisabetta Catellani - [elisabetta.catellani@ausl.re.it](mailto:elisabetta.catellani@ausl.re.it); Antonella Piazza - [antonella.piazza@ausl.re.it](mailto:antonella.piazza@ausl.re.it); Roberto Iotti - [roberto.iotti@ausl.re.it](mailto:roberto.iotti@ausl.re.it); Massimo Michelini - [massimo.michelini@ausl.re.it](mailto:massimo.michelini@ausl.re.it); Matteo Goldoni - [matteo.goldoni@nemo.unipr.it](mailto:matteo.goldoni@nemo.unipr.it); Alberico Borghetti - [a.borghetti@unipr.it](mailto:a.borghetti@unipr.it); Maria Domenica Cappellini - [maria.cappellini@unimi.it](mailto:maria.cappellini@unimi.it); Valeria Manicardi - [Valeria.Manicardi@ausl.re.it](mailto:Valeria.Manicardi@ausl.re.it)

\* Corresponding author

Published: 5 June 2008

Received: 28 April 2008

*Cardiovascular Ultrasound* 2008, **6**:27 doi:10.1186/1476-7120-6-27

Accepted: 5 June 2008

This article is available from: <http://www.cardiovascularultrasound.com/content/6/1/27>

© 2008 Pattoneri et al; licensee BioMed Central Ltd.

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

### Abstract

To evaluate whether myocardial performance index detects a subclinical impairment of left ventricular systolic and diastolic function in patients with early stage of type 2 diabetes, without coronary artery disease, with or without hypertension. Furthermore, to evaluate whether some echocardiographic parameters relate to the metabolic control. Forty-five consecutive male patients (mean age 52.5 years) with type 2 diabetes mellitus of recent onset (23 hypertensives and 22 normotensives) and 22 age matched healthy controls males were analysed. All participants had normal exercise ECG. All subjects underwent standard and Doppler echocardiography for the assessment of the isovolumic Doppler time interval and Doppler-derived myocardial performance index. In all diabetic patients a glycated haemoglobin test was also performed.

No differences were observed in blood pressure, heart rate, and conventional echocardiographic parameters comparing the 2 subgroups of diabetic patients and the controls. Myocardial performance index was significantly higher in diabetic patients independently of the hypertension occurrence, compared to the controls (0.49 and 0.49 diabetic normotensives and hypertensives respectively vs. 0.39,  $p < 0.01$ ). Myocardial performance index correlated to glycated haemoglobin significantly ( $r = 0.37$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ) in both diabetic subgroups. Thus, an early involvement of left ventricular performance was shown by myocardial performance index in patients with type 2 diabetes of recent onset without coronary artery disease, independently of the hypertension presence. These abnormalities can provide a feasible approach to detect a pre-clinical diabetic cardiomyopathy and could be useful for an indirect assessment of the metabolic control.

## Background

A primary diabetic cardiomyopathy represents a high risk factor of heart failure in the absence of ischemic, valvular and hypertensive heart disease in the diabetic population [1-3]. Diabetic cardiomyopathy is characterized by an early left ventricular (LV) diastolic dysfunction and a late LV systolic dysfunction. At conventional echocardiography LV diastolic dysfunction has been documented also in subjects with impaired glucose tolerance [4] and a short duration of type 2 diabetes mellitus [5]. Unquestionably, an early detection of LV damage is a major goal for the prevention of cardiac disease in the diabetic population. Tei et al [6] described a simple, reproducible Doppler derived Myocardial Performance Index (MPI) able to reflect both LV systolic and diastolic function. MPI is diagnostic in patients with heart failure [7,8] and in individuals with overt cardiac disease who have positive risk factors for coronary artery disease [9,10]. Furthermore, it has a prognostic value in patients with myocardial infarction [11], and in those with cardiac amyloidosis [12]. Little is known about the MPI impact in patients with diabetes mellitus of recent onset and without coronary artery disease. The aim of this study was to evaluate whether MPI is able to detect a subclinical LV involvement in patients with a short duration of type 2 diabetes mellitus without coronary artery disease, with and without hypertension, and whether echocardiographic functional parameters, in particular MPI, are related to metabolic abnormalities.

## Methods

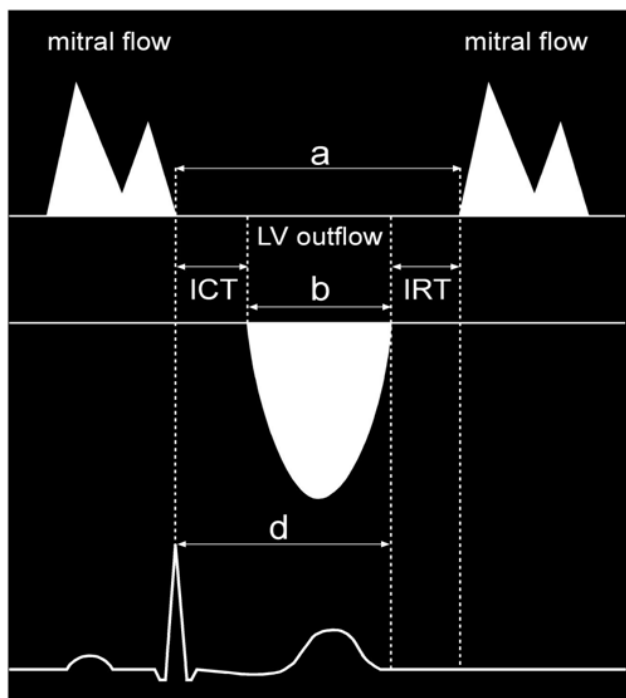
### Subjects

The study population consisted of 45 consecutive male patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus of recent onset (23 hypertensives and 22 normotensives) and 22 healthy controls. The patient population was recruited from the Operative Unit of Internal Medicine, Montecchio Emilia Hospital, IT between July 2006 and December 2006. All participants had normal exercise ECG and none was a smoker. All subjects underwent standard and Doppler echocardiography and all diabetic patients also a glycated haemoglobin (HbA<sub>1c</sub>) test. Diabetes mellitus was diagnosed according to the criteria of the American Diabetes Association [13], including fasting plasma glucose level  $\geq$  126 mg/dl on at least two occasions. HbA<sub>1c</sub> was determined by the HPLC method. Blood sample for analysis was obtained after 8-hours minimum overnight fast and before oral antidiabetic drugs. Hypertension was defined as recommended from the Seventh Report of the Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Pressure [14] or treatment with antihypertensive drugs for a known diagnosis of hypertension. Body mass index (BMI) was calculated as weight in kilograms divided by the square of height in meters. Obese were those patients who had a BMI > 30

Kg/m<sup>2</sup>. Patients with history of myocardial infarction, chronic stable angina pectoris, previous coronary revascularization, regional wall-motion abnormalities in rest echocardiography, significant valvular disease at echocardiography, significant rest ECG abnormalities suggestive of myocardial ischemia, symptoms or ECG signs of ischemia on exercise stress test, arrhythmias, congestive heart failure, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease were excluded from the study. The local medical Ethic Committee approved the study protocol. Written informed consent was obtained from all patients.

### Echocardiography

All subjects underwent two-dimensional and Doppler echocardiogram according to the recommendations of the American Society of Echocardiography [15]. Recordings were taken from patients standard left lateral decubitus position in expiratory apnoea or quiet breathing by using a multi-hertz sector probe (2-4 MHz) of a Sequoia 512 (Siemens Acuson, Mountain View, California) and stored in the computer of the ultrasonic unit. LV dimensions were measured with M-mode using a leading edge-to-edge convention. The measurements included intraventricular septal thickness (IVS), posterior wall thickness (PW), left ventricular diameter at the end of diastole (LVEDD) and systole (LVESD) respectively. Left ventricular relative wall thickness was calculated as (IVS + PW)/LVEDD. Left ventricular mass (LVM) was calculated using the Penn-convention and indexed to Body Surface Area (LVM/BSA) [16,17]. LV end-diastolic and end-systolic volume as well as the ejection fraction (EF) were calculated according to the biplane Simpson rule. Fractional shortening (FS) was assessed as a percent ratio: (LVDD-LVDS)/LVDD. LV filling was assessed with pulse-wave Doppler echocardiography. Measurements were obtained with the transducer in the apical 4-chamber view, and with the Doppler beam aligned as perpendicular as possible to the plane of the mitral annulus. To obtain mitral flow velocities, Doppler sample volume was placed between the tips of mitral leaflets during diastole. From pulsed Doppler the mitral inflow E-wave deceleration time (DT), peak velocity (pv) and time velocity integral (tvi) of E and A wave and E/A ratios were assessed. These measurements were detected during the second phase of Valsalva manoeuvre in order to discriminate subjects with normal diastolic function from subject with "pseudonormalized" pattern [18]. Overall LV function was assessed using the Tei index, defined as the sum of isovolumetric relaxation and contraction times (IRT and ICT respectively) divided by ejection time [19] which can be obtained from pulsed Doppler recordings of mitral inflow. LV outflow was recorded from the apical long-axis view with pulsed-wave Doppler with the sample volume positioned just below the aortic valve (Figure 1). Other aspects of this technique have been considered in our previous studies [20,21]. All

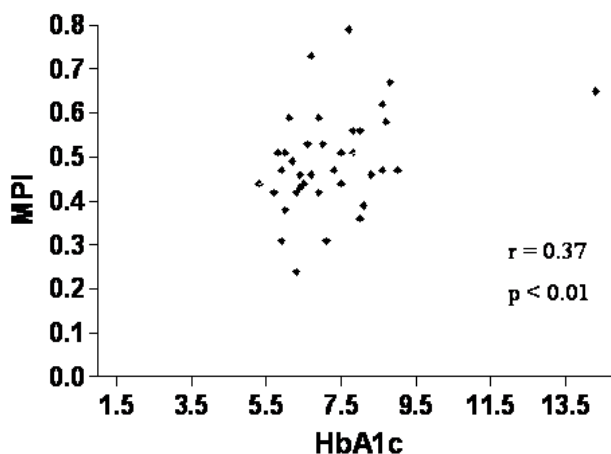


**Figure 1**  
**Flow Doppler at the mitral valve and at the LV outflow tract.** Measurements of the time intervals of the Myocardial Performance Index (MPI). The interval "a" is measured from the end to the onset of mitral inflow waveform; the interval "b" is the left ventricular outflow velocity tracing (ET). The MPI was calculated as (a - b)/b.

of the echocardiographic measurements were performed by the same experienced cardiologist (P. P.) who was unaware of the patients' clinical data.

**Statistics**

All statistical analyses were carried out with SPSS for Windows release 15.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). Data are expressed as means + standard deviation. Comparison among the 3 groups for various parameters was performed by 1-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) and the post-hoc Tukey test for multiple comparisons, and two tailed Student's t test for paired data were applied to evaluate differences between controls and patient groups. The relationship between parameters were evaluated by means of simple linear regression data analysis. The P-values below 0.05 was considered statistically significant.



**Figure 2**  
**Relationship between Myocardial Performance Index and glycated haemoglobin in all diabetic patients.**

**Results**

**Baseline Characteristics**

The clinical characteristics of the studied population are shown in Table 1. The two groups of diabetic patients were similar for age, diabetes mellitus duration, type of antidiabetic treatment, HbA1c, fasting blood glucose, blood pressure and heart rate at the time of the medical check. Blood pressure and heart rate were lower in the control group.

**Standard Echocardiographic Parameters**

The echocardiographic characteristics of the three study groups are listed in Table 2. LV diameters, volumes, EF, fractional shortening and wall thicknesses were superimposable comparing diabetic normotensive to diabetic hypertensive patients. Diabetic patients showed higher LV diameter, LV volumes, wall thicknesses and LV mass. On the contrary, they showed lower fractional shortening and EF (Table 2). These differences were more clear when diabetes was associated to hypertension.

The diastolic function, evaluated as the mean of E/A ratios and DT, was similar comparing diabetic normotensive to diabetic hypertensive patients but was significantly different when both the diabetic groups of patients were compared to normal subjects ( $E_{pv}/A_{pv}$  1.0 in both diabetic populations vs. 1.4 in controls,  $p < 0.01$ ; DT 182 msec and 190 msec in diabetics respectively normotensives and hypertensives vs. 139 in controls,  $p < 0.01$ ), although within the normal range (Table 3). The prevalence of abnormal diastolic filling was equal in the diabetic hypertensive patients (7 patients with impaired relaxation) and

**Table 1: Clinical and biochemical characteristics of controls and diabetic patients.**

Parameters	Diabetes mellitus (n. 22)	Diabetes mellitus and hypertension (n. 23)	Controls (n. 22)
Age (years)	52 ± 7	53 ± 8	53 ± 5
Obesity (%)	18	21	0
Hypertension (%)	0	100	0
Hypercholesterolemia (%)	14	22	0**
Smoking (%)	0	0	0
Family history of myocardial ischemia (%)	15	17	8†
Systolic blood pressure (mmHg)	127 ± 5§	138 ± 14**	120 ± 14
Diastolic blood pressure (mmHg)	81 ± 7§§	82 ± 9**	75 ± 7
Heart rate (bpm)	75 ± 7**	76 ± 10**	67 ± 8
Mean diabetes duration (months)	40 ± 18	36 ± 15	-
Fasting glucose (mg/dL)	167 ± 36§§	138 ± 25	87 ± 8
HbA <sub>1c</sub> (%)	7.7 ± 2.2	7.0 ± 1.0	3.7 ± 2.2
Oral hypoglycaemic agents (%)	77	74	0
Diet therapy (%)	23	26	0
Anti-hypertensive therapy (%)			
ACE-inhibitor	9	65	-
Angiotensin receptor antagonist	-	22	-
Diuretics	-	22	-
Calcium channel blockers	-	22	-
Beta-blockers	-	17	-

\*\*p < 0.01 diabetics vs controls; §p < 0.02 diabetic-normotensive patients vs diabetic-hypertensive patients; §§p < 0.03 diabetic-normotensive patients vs diabetic-hypertensive patients. HbA<sub>1c</sub>, glycated haemoglobin.

diabetic normotensive patients (6 patients with impaired relaxation).

MPI was significantly higher in both diabetic groups compared to controls (Table 3). This was primarily due to a significant prolongation of IRT (78 and 80 msec in diabetics normotensives and hypertensives respectively vs. 62 msec in controls,  $p < 0.05$ ). The MPI was similar in the two diabetic groups independently of the diastolic dysfunction. MPI correlated to HbA<sub>1c</sub> significantly in all patients ( $r = 0.37$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ) (Figure 2). In particular HbA<sub>1c</sub> directly correlated to ICT ( $r = 0.29$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) and inversely with ET ( $r = -0.29$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). No correlations were found between some clinical parameters (diabetes duration, systolic and diastolic blood pressure, patients age) and echocardiographic parameters (LV mass index, wall thickness, LV EF or FS, E/A ratios and DT).

## Discussion

In a previous study Mishra and coworkers have shown a limited role for MPI in the assessment of cardiac function in populations with multiple coronary risk factors but free of clinical cardiovascular disease [22], although some studies demonstrated an increase of MPI in type 2 diabetic patients free of coronary artery disease [9,23]. To our knowledge, our study is the first that identify the earliest cardiac performance abnormalities at echocardiography in a homogeneous group of type 2 diabetic patients with short duration of disease without coronary artery disease, independently of hypertension occurrence and diastolic

function. In both diabetic groups the mean E/A ratio was lower compared to controls, although within the normal range. MPI increase was mainly due to a prolongation of IRT. Our data show that the global myocardial performance dysfunction may precede the diastolic dysfunction, therefore it represents the earliest echocardiographic sign evidence of diabetic cardiomyopathy. Several reports attempted to determine the prevalence of LV diastolic dysfunction in middle-aged asymptomatic subjects with type 2 diabetes [24,25]. However, these studies, which used Doppler assessment of transmitral flow velocity, could have underestimated the prevalence of LV diastolic dysfunction, because they neglected to account for pseudo-normal patterns of ventricular filling, which are often noted in the evaluation of LV diastolic function [26]. In our study, the diastolic parameters were detected during the second phase of Valsalva manoeuvre in order to discriminate subjects with normal diastolic function from subject with "pseudonormalized" pattern.

The mechanisms behind LV performance dysfunction remain largely unknown. In normotensive and free of ischemic heart disease patients, the metabolic abnormalities may play a major role. In fact, we found a correlation between myocardial performance index and HbA<sub>1c</sub> (Figure 2). Nevertheless, the clinical value of this correlation, although statistically significant, will be confirmed with a prolonged follow-up and increasing the sample size. The impact of the coexistence of diabetes and hypertension on LV function has recently been investigated both in the

**Table 2: Conventional echocardiographic variables in patients and controls.**

Parameters	Diabetes mellitus	Diabetes mellitus with hypertension	Controls
LV end-diastolic diameter (mm)	50 ± 5	51 ± 5**	46 ± 5
LV end-systolic diameter (mm)	31 ± 5	33 ± 5**	28 ± 4
Septal wall thickness (mm)	10 ± 1 <sup>†</sup>	11.1 ± 1**	9 ± 1
Posterior wall thickness (mm)	10 ± 1**	10 ± 1**	9 ± 2
Relative wall thickness	0.42 ± 0.06	0.43 ± 0.06	0.40 ± 0.07
LV mass index (g/m <sup>2</sup> )	116 ± 25**	130 ± 22**	92 ± 23
LV fractional shortening (%)	36 ± 8	35 ± 6	39 ± 5
Ejection fraction (%)	64 ± 6	63 ± 6	64 ± 4
LV end-diastolic volume (ml)	96 ± 22	105 ± 24	97 ± 22
LV end-systolic volume (ml)	38 ± 11	44 ± 16	36 ± 12

\*\*p < 0.01 diabetics vs controls, †p < 0.05 diabetic-normotensive patients vs diabetic-hypertensive patients.

**Table 3: Myocardial Performance Index and Doppler time intervals.**

Parameters	Diabetes mellitus	Diabetes mellitus with hypertension	Controls
LV MPI	0.49 ± 0.10*	0.49 ± 0.12**	0.39 ± 0.10
LV ICT (ms)	59 ± 22	60 ± 24	50 ± 11
LV IRT (ms)	78 ± 24 <sup>†</sup>	80 ± 33 <sup>†</sup>	62 ± 14
LV ET (ms)	281 ± 23	285 ± 25	295 ± 30
E-wave deceleration time (ms)	182 ± 51**	190 ± 59**	139 ± 16
E <sub>pv</sub> (cm/s)	67 ± 9*	71 ± 11	76 ± 16
E <sub>tvi</sub> (cm)	9 ± 2	9 ± 3	10 ± 2
A <sub>pv</sub> (cm/s)	70 ± 13**	76 ± 14**	57 ± 13
A <sub>tvi</sub> (cm)	6 ± 2	7 ± 2 <sup>†</sup>	5 ± 2
E <sub>pv</sub> /A <sub>pv</sub>	1.0 ± 0.2	1.0 ± 0.2**	1.4 ± 0.3
E <sub>tvi</sub> /A <sub>tvi</sub>	1.5 ± 0.4**	1.4 ± 0.5**	2.0 ± 0.6

\*p < 0.02 diabetics vs controls, \*\*p < 0.01 diabetics vs controls, †p < 0.05 diabetics vs controls.

LV, left ventricle; MPI, myocardial performance index; ICT, isovolumic relaxation time; IRT, isovolumic contraction time; ET, ejection time; E, early diastolic filling wave; A, atrial contraction wave; pv, peak velocity; tv, time velocity integral.

Strong Heart study and the HyperGEN study [27-29], where apparent implications of a specific diabetes effect on LV relaxation of the myocardium were found in hypertensive type 2 diabetic patients [27]. This can be due to impaired glycemic control, microangiopathy or interstitial accumulation of elastin and collagen which also increase LV stiffness and mass in diabetic patients [30]. Ren et al demonstrated that short-term hyperglycaemia modifies the cardiomyocytes contraction and relaxation in an experimental model of isolated ventricular myocytes [31]. In addition, a study of Fang et al performed on diabetic patients hyperglycaemia and insulin resistance are able to induce functional and structural changes of cardiomyocytes, which lead to progressive deterioration of regional and global myocardial dynamics [32]. In our study we used an echo approach for the evaluation of sub-clinical myocardial involvement, that represents a main advantage due to the radiation – free nature of ultrasound [33].

Our findings may have important clinical implications to the early identification of subclinical myocardial perform-

ance abnormalities with normal cardiac function at the conventional echocardiography. MPI provides an easy early phase index of diabetic cardiomyopathy that precede diastolic dysfunction, which monitors the natural history of the diabetic disease. Furthermore, MPI is useful for the indirect assessment of the metabolic control or for suggesting an early pharmacological treatment. Finally, MPI detects whether such abnormalities can modify or revert as a response to an optimal metabolic control and/or pharmacological treatment. The early diagnosis of a pre-clinical diabetic cardiomyopathy with MPI is useful for the appropriate clinical testing of new therapeutic approaches in the diabetic population.

A study limitation is represented by the patients sample, which is limited in size. In addition, the diabetes therapy was different in the two groups of patients although according to the guidelines. Moreover, we know that the exercise ECG in diabetic patients has a low sensitivity and subclinical atherosclerosis cannot be fully excluded. However, our patients were asymptomatic, free of previous history of coronary artery disease and the diabetes was of

recent onset. We believe that the exercise test in patients with these characteristics can represent a reliable test with a higher sensitivity.

Beside, in common with other investigations on the MPI, we did not evaluate the effects of abnormalities of late diastolic compliance. However, when present, these are associated with raised LV filling pressure, which would shorten IRT and thus reduce the MPI, counterbalancing the prolongation due to those of early diastole. Finally, no outcome data are available at the moment.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, subtle abnormalities of LV myocardial performance are detected by means of MPI during the early stage of type 2 diabetes, independently of the hypertension presence, and it broadens the spectrum of pre-clinical diabetic cardiomyopathy.

## Authors' contributions

PP carried out all the two-dimensional and Doppler echocardiograms and participated in the sequence alignment and drafted the manuscript, FBS participated in the sequence alignment and drafted the manuscript, EC participated in the sequence alignment, AP participated in the sequence alignment, RI participated in the sequence alignment, MM selected the diabetic patients. MG participated in the design of the study and performed the statistical analysis, AB participated in the design of the study and performed the statistical analysis, MDC participated in the design of the study and drafted the manuscript, VM selected the patients. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

## Acknowledgements

I want to thank Designer Alessandra Nigito for the excellent support to the presentation of this work.

## References

- Zarich SW, Nesto R: **Diabetic cardiomyopathy.** *Am Heart J* 1989, **118**:1000-12.
- Kannel WB, Hjortland M, Castelli W: **Role of diabetes in congestive heart failure: the Framingham study.** *Am J Cardiol* 1974, **34**:29-34.
- Raev DC: **Which left ventricular function is impaired earlier in the evolution of diabetic cardiomyopathy? an echocardiographic study of young type I diabetic patients.** *Diabetes Care* 1994, **17**:633-9.
- Celentano A, Vaccaro O, Tammaro P, Galderisi M, Crivaro M, Olivero M, Imperatore G, Palmieri V, Iovino V, Riccardi G, DeVitiis O: **Early abnormalities of cardiac function in non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus and impaired glucose tolerance.** *Am J Cardiol* 1995, **76**:1173-76.
- Di Bonito P, Cuomo S, Moio N, Sibilio G, Sabatini D, Quattrin S, Capaldo B: **Diastolic dysfunction in patients with Type 2 diabetes of short duration.** *Diabet Med* 1996, **13**:321-324.
- Tei C, Nishimura RA, Seward JB, Tajik AJ: **Noninvasive Doppler-derived myocardial performance index: correlation with simultaneous measurements of cardiac catheterization measurements.** *J Am Soc Echocardiogr* 1997, **10**(2):169-178.
- Dujardin KS, Tei C, Yeo TC, Hodge DO, Rossi A, Seward JB: **Prognostic value of a Doppler index combining systolic and diastolic performance in idiopathic-dilated cardiomyopathy.** *Am J Cardiol* 1998, **82**:1071-1076.
- Bruch C, Schmermund A, Marin D, Katz M, Bartel T, Schaar J, Erbel R: **Tei-index in patients with mild-to-moderate congestive heart failure.** *Eur Heart J* 2000, **21**(22):1888-95.
- Andersen NH, Poulsen SH, Helleberg K, Ivarsen P, Knudsen ST, Mogensen CE: **Impact of essential hypertension and diabetes mellitus on left ventricular systolic and diastolic performance.** *Eur J Echocardiography* 2003, **4**:306-312.
- Keser N, Yildiz S, Kurtog N, Dindar I: **Modified Tei index: a promising parameter in essential hypertension?** *Echocardiography* 2005, **22**:296-304.
- Moller JE, Egstrup K, Kober L, Poulsen SH, Nyvad O, Torp-Pedersen C: **Prognostic importance of systolic and diastolic function after myocardial infarction.** *Am Heart J* 2003, **145**:147-153.
- Tei C, Dujardin KS, Hodge DO, Kyle RA, Tajik AJ, Seward JB: **Doppler index combining systolic and diastolic myocardial performance: clinical value in cardiac amyloidosis.** *J Am Coll Cardiol* 1996, **28**:658-664.
- The Expert Committee on the Diagnosis and Classification of Diabetes Mellitus: **Report of the Expert Committee on the Diagnosis and Classification of Diabetes Mellitus.** *Diabetes Care* 1997, **20**:1183-1197.
- Chobanian AV, Bakris GL, Black HR, Cushman WC, Green LA, Izzo JL Jr, Jones DW, Materson BJ, Oparil S, Wright JT, Roccella EJ Jr: **National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Pressure Educational Program Coordinating Committee. The seventh report of the Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Pressure: the JNC 7 report.** *JAMA* 2003, **289**:2560-72.
- Schiller NB, Shah PM, Crawford M, DeMaria A, Devereux R, Feigenbaum H, Gutgesell H, Reichek N, Sahn D, Schnittger I: **Recommendations for quantitation of the left ventricle by two-dimensional echocardiography.** *J Am Soc Echocardiogr* 1989, **2**:358-368.
- Devereux RB, Reichek N: **Echocardiographic determination of left ventricular mass in man: anatomic validation of the method.** *Circulation* 1977, **55**:613-618.
- De Simone G, Devereux RB, Roman MJ, Ganau A, Saba PS, Alderman MH, Laragh JH: **Assessment of left ventricular function by the midwall fractional shortening/end-systolic stress relation in human hypertension.** *J Am Coll Cardiol* 1994, **23**:1444-51.
- Dumesnil JG, Gaudreault G, Honos GN, Kingma JG Jr: **Use of Valsalva maneuver to unmask left ventricular diastolic function abnormalities by Doppler echocardiography in patients with coronary artery disease or systemic hypertension.** *Am J Cardiol* 1991, **68**:515-519.
- Tei C: **New non-invasive index for combined systolic and diastolic function.** *J Cardiol* 1995, **26**:396-404.
- Pattoneri P, Pelà G, Montanari E, Pesci I, Moruzzi P, Borghetti A: **Evaluation of the myocardial performance index for early detection of mitoxantrone-induced cardiotoxicity in patients with multiple sclerosis.** *Eur J Echocardiogr* 2007, **8**(2):144-50.
- Pattoneri P, Pelà G, Sozzi F, Borghetti A: **Impact of myocardial geometry on left ventricular performance in healthy black and white young adults.** *Echocardiography* 2008, **25**(1):13-19.
- Mishra RK, Kizer JR, Palmieri V, Roman MJ, Galloway JM, Fabsitz RR, Lee ET, Best LG, Devereux RB: **Utility of the myocardial performance index in a population with high prevalences of obesity, diabetes, and hypertension: the strong heart study.** *Echocardiography* 2007, **24**(4):340-7.
- Voulgari C, Tentolouris N, Moysaklis I, Dilaveris P, Gialafos E, Papadogiannis D, Votteas V, Cokkinos DV, Stefanadis Ch, Katsilambros N: **Spatial QRS-T angle: association with diabetes and left ventricular performance.** *Eur J Clin Investigation* 2006, **38**:608-13.
- Nicolino A, Longobardi G, Furgi G, Rossi M, Zoccolillo N, Ferrara N, Rengo F: **Left ventricular diastolic filling in diabetes mellitus with and without hypertension.** *Am J Hypertens* 1995, **8**:382-389.
- Hiramatsu K, Ohara N, Shigematsu S, Aizawa T, Ishihara F, Niwa A, Yamada T, Naka M, Momose A, Yoshizawa K: **Left ventricular filling abnormalities in non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus and improvement by a short-term glycemic control.** *Am J Cardiol* 1992, **70**:1182-1189.

26. Appleton CP, Jensen JL, Hatle LK, Oh JK: **Doppler evaluation of left and right ventricular diastolic function: a technical guide for obtaining optimal flow velocity recordings.** *J Am Soc Echocardiogr* 1997, **10**:271-292.
27. Liu JE, Palmieri V, Roman MJ, Bella JN, Fabsitz R, Howard BV, Welty TK, Lee ET, Devereux RB: **The impact of diabetes on left ventricular filling pattern in normotensive and hypertensive adults: the Strong Heart Study.** *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2001, **37(7)**:1943-1947.
28. Palmieri V, Bella JN, Arnett DK, Liu JE, Oberman A, Schuck MY, Kitzman DW, Hopkins PN, Morgan D, Rao DC, Devereux RB: **Effect of type 2 diabetes mellitus on left ventricular geometry and systolic function in hypertensive subjects: Hypertension Genetic Epidemiological Network (HyperGEN) Study.** *Circulation* 2001, **103(1)**:102-107.
29. Bella JN, Devereux RB, Roman MJ, Palmieri V, Liu JE, Paranicas M, Welty TK, Lee ET, Fabsitz RR, Howard BV: **Separate and joint effects of systemic hypertension and diabetes mellitus on left ventricular structure and function in american indians (the Strong Heart Study).** *Am J Cardiol* 2001, **87(11)**:1260-1265.
30. Van Hoesven KH, Factor SM: **A comparison of the pathological spectrum of hypertensive, diabetic, and hypertensive-diabetic heart disease.** *Circulation* 1990, **82(3)**:848-855.
31. Ren J, Davidoff AJ: **Diabetes rapidly induces contractile dysfunctions in isolated ventricular myocytes.** *Am J Physiol* 1997, **272**:H148-158.
32. Fang ZY, Yuda S, Anderson V, Short L, Case C, Marwick TH: **Echocardiographic detection of early diabetic myocardial disease.** *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2003, **41**:611-617.
33. Picano E: **Sustainability of medical imaging.** *BMJ* 2004, **328**:578-580.

Publish with **BioMed Central** and every scientist can read your work free of charge

*"BioMed Central will be the most significant development for disseminating the results of biomedical research in our lifetime."*

Sir Paul Nurse, Cancer Research UK

Your research papers will be:

- available free of charge to the entire biomedical community
- peer reviewed and published immediately upon acceptance
- cited in PubMed and archived on PubMed Central
- yours — you keep the copyright

Submit your manuscript here:  
[http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/publishing\\_adv.asp](http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/publishing_adv.asp)

