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Editor-in-Chief

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Dear Dr. Giuseppe De Luca

We are grateful to the reviewer since his/her comments have allowed us to improve the quality of the manuscript 30314 entitled “Speckle tracking echocardiography to assess regional ventricular function in patients with apical hypertrophic cardiomyopathy”.

With regard to the queries raised about the revision, the manuscript was modified:

Reviewer: 00214240

Comments To Authors

absolutely interesting study speckle tracking echocardiography is a relatively new technique information ian apical hypertrophy is lacking limited number of patiens ,but more than only a case report as mentioned in the title. limitations are well documented; the real clinical consequences are probably limited, and are not explained ?

Our findings indicate that in addition to markedly attenuated global and regional longitudinal strain, patients with Apical HCM characteristically exhibit significant heterogeneity or non-uniformity of regional function and form (as evident from the strain and thickness dispersion indices, respectively). Collectively, these findings likely represent regional myocardial disarray and replacement fibrosis, characteristic of Apical HCM that lead to non-uniformity of morphology, contractile function and altered intramural deformational mechanics. Our observations complement results from a prior quantitative study reported associations between fibrosis and regional contractile dysfunction using gadolinium-enhanced cMRI and MRI myocardial tagging techniques. Interestingly, altered ultrasonic longitudinal systolic strain rate patterns were recently shown to accurately identify areas of regional fibrosis mapped by cMRI in a variety of conditions including HCM.

Reviewer: 00225356

1. In table 1, authors should better characterize this patient population including some other clinical data, such as co-morbidities

Thank you for the observation

2.The authors should clarify how they selected this population and how these patients came to medical attention

Few studies have addressed regional myocardial mechanics in patients with Apical hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (Apical HCM), and 2-dimensional deformation imaging studies of patients with Apical HCM are lacking. For the present study, we hypothesized that regional myocardial mechanics of the apex differed from those of the other ventricular segments without LV hypertrophy. Therefore, in this retrospective 2-dimensional echocardiographic study, we investigated left ventricular deformation in patients with Apical HCM.

3.The inter- and intra-observer variability are correctly described. How was the level of the experience of the operators?

The level of experience of the observers was more than 5 years of researching using speckle tracking

4.The manuscript needs minor polishing. For example “region of interest” is not abbreviated at the first time it appears and it is not always abbreviated. In the conclusions: “In a larger patient cohort” could be better than “with more subjects

Thank you for the observation

Reviewer 00214291

**Comments To
Authors**

interesting

Best regards

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