

Reproducibility

The first 10 studies were analyzed blindly by a second operator who measured longitudinal two-dimensional strain in 170 myocardial segments. Intraobserver variability was calculated from the mean of the differences obtained in the 170 segments. Interobserver variability was calculated as the absolute difference divided by the mean of the 2 observations for all segments measured.

Statistical Analysis

Quantitative data with a normal distribution were expressed as the mean \pm standard deviation and data without a Gaussian distribution were expressed as medians (interquartile interval).

For the comparison of quantitative variables with a normal distribution we used the Student's *t* test for paired data; for variables without a normal distribution we used the *Wilcoxon or Signed Rank Test*.

All p values < 0.05 were considered statistically significant. Statistical analyses were performed with Statistix 7.0 software for Windows.