

POSTER PRESENTATION

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Restrictive filling patterns in patients with reduced systolic left ventricular function: identification by velocity encoded magnetic resonance imaging

Kai Muellerleile^{1*}, Loant Baholli², Michael Groth¹, Achim Barmeyer², Gerhard Adam¹, Gunnar K Lund¹, Thomas Rostock¹, Ulf K Radunski¹, Ralf Koester¹, Stephan Willems¹

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Purpose

To evaluate the ability of velocity encoded magnetic resonance imaging (VENC-MRI) to identify the presence of a restrictive filling pattern in patients with reduced systolic left ventricular (LV) function.

Introduction

A restrictive filling pattern is an independent prognostic marker for an increased mortality in patients with reduced systolic LV function. The diagnosis is currently established by characterization of transmitral and pulmonary-venous flow using Doppler-echocardiography. VENC-MRI enables robust quantification of transmitral as well as pulmonary-venous flow.

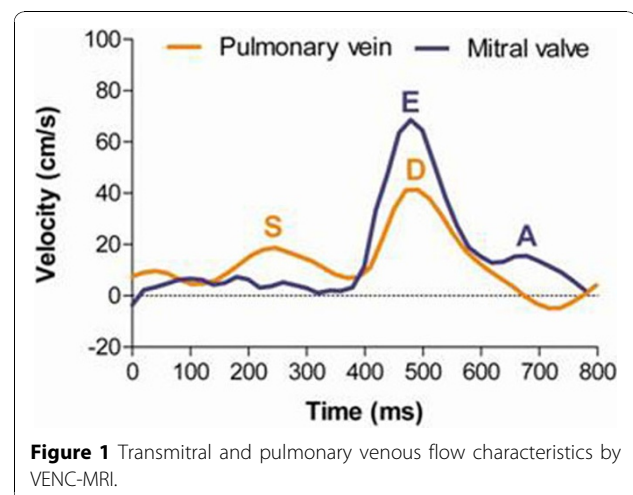
Methods

The study included 41 patients with reduced systolic LV function (ejection fraction 29 ± 12 %). All patients underwent VENC-MRI and Doppler-echocardiography to assess the transmitral and pulmonary-venous flow characteristics. Figure 1 illustrates measurements of maximal early- and late-diastolic transmitral velocities (E- and A-waves) as well as maximal systolic and diastolic pulmonary venous velocities (S- and D-wave). Restrictive filling pattern was defined by an E/A ratio > 2.0 in combination with an S/D ratio < 1.0 . Left atrial volume was obtained on long-axis cine-MRI slices using the biplane area-length method. N-terminal pro brain natriuretic peptide (NT-proBNP) levels were assessed as a marker

for changed filling pressures. Maximal oxygen uptake (VO_2 -max) was assessed using spiroergometry.

Results

There was a very good correlation between VENC-MRI and Doppler-echocardiography for the E/A ratio ($r=0.86$, $P<0.0001$). The correlation was moderate between both methods for the S/D ratio ($r=0.45$, $P<0.01$). VENC-MRI identified 10 (24 %) and Doppler-echocardiography 7 (17 %) patients with restrictive filling pattern. The agreement between both methods was moderate ($\kappa=0.49$). Left atrial volumes were larger in patients with restrictive filling pattern than in patients without restrictive filling pattern (143 ± 41 vs. 104 ± 33 ml; $P<0.01$). Higher NT-proBNP levels were found in patients with



¹University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany
Full list of author information is available at the end of the article

restrictive filling pattern compared to patients without restrictive filling pattern (6090 ± 7854 vs. 1193 ± 1387 ng/l; $P < 0.01$). VO_2 max was lower in patients with restrictive filling pattern compared to patients without restrictive filling pattern (11.2 ± 2.3 vs. 14.2 ± 4.8 ml/min/kg; $P = 0.13$)

Conclusions

VENC-MRI has the ability to identify the presence of a restrictive filling pattern and may be a useful tool for the evaluation of patients with reduced systolic LV function.

Author details

¹University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany.

²Klinikum Dortmund, Dortmund, Germany.

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