

10<sup>th</sup> Annual Update on Liver Disease:  
A Multidisciplinary Approach  
March 4, 2023

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**RUTGERS**

New Jersey Medical School

# Cirrhotic Cardiomyopathy

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# Disclosure Slide

No Disclosures Relevant to this presentation

Consultant (Heart Failure Clinical Trials):

Orchestra Biomed

Endotronix

# Cardiac Output at rest in Laennec's cirrhosis

## THE CARDIAC OUTPUT AT REST IN LAENNEC'S CIRRHOSIS<sup>1</sup>

By HENRY J. KOWALSKI\* AND WALTER H. ABELMANN

(From the Thorndike Memorial Laboratory, Second and Fourth Medical Services [Harvard], and the Department of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass.)

(Submitted for publication April 29, 1953; accepted June 12, 1953)

IN  
Patients with Laennec's cirrhosis, especially those with an occidental beri-beri background of congestive heart failure, prolonged circulation time which suggests an elevated cardiac output (1) and in some cases, as in the case of beri-beri, this has been reported. In our knowledge, direct measurements of blood flow have not been made in patients with Laennec's cirrhosis. Increased cardiac output in patients with Laennec's cirrhosis is associated with the frequent occurrence of warm extremities, cutaneous vascular spiders, wide pulse pressure, and capillary pulsations in the nail beds.

The present study reports measurements of the resting cardiac output, blood pressure, and peripheral resistance in patients with chronic alcoholism and disease of the liver.

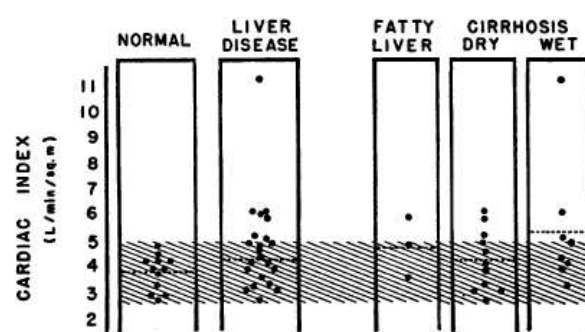


FIG. 1. SCATTER OF CARDIAC INDEX

and enlargement of the  
18) had cutaneous vas-  
abnormally high Brom-  
made clinically when  
er and laboratory evi-  
t the following: icterus,  
, edema, splenomegaly,  
8  
is the morning without  
absent. An indwelling  
brachial artery and a  
right antecubital vein.  
rest for at least twenty

minutes.

### Cardiac output

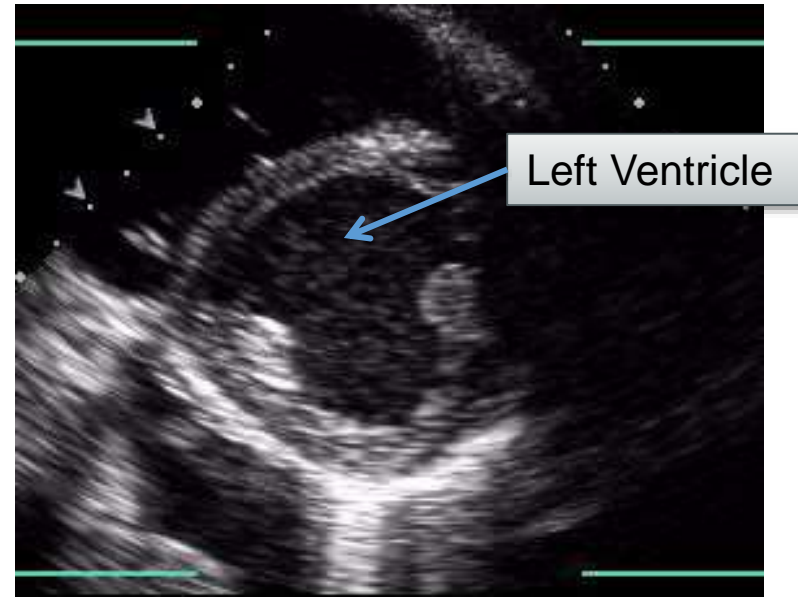
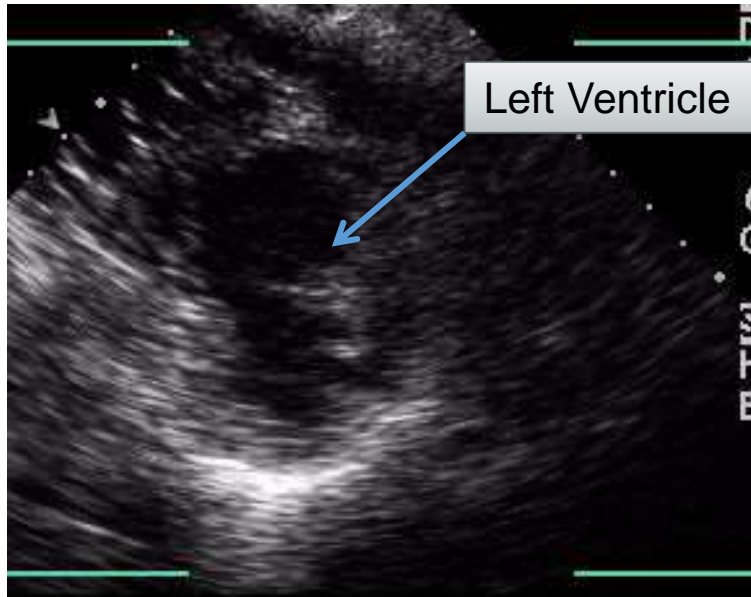
The cardiac output was determined by the dye-injection method as described by Hamilton and his co-workers (8). Five mg. of a 0.5 per cent solution of Evans blue dye were injected rapidly through the venous needle from a tuberculin syringe previously calibrated by weighing. The dead space of the indwelling needle was known and accounted

# Cardiovascular Syndromes in Liver Disease

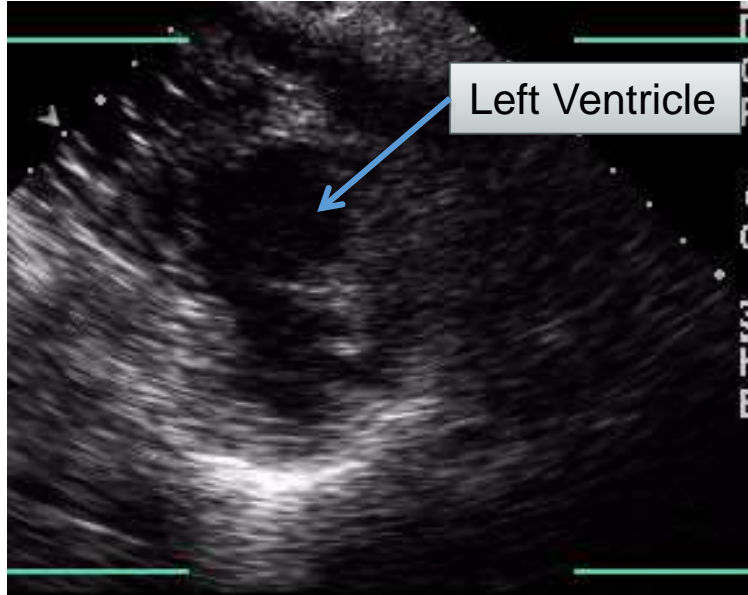
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- I. Portopulmonary Arterial Hypertension
- II. Hepatopulmonary Syndrome
- III. Non-alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease, Metabolic Syndrome and Cardiovascular Disease
- IV. Cirrhotic Cardiomyopathy

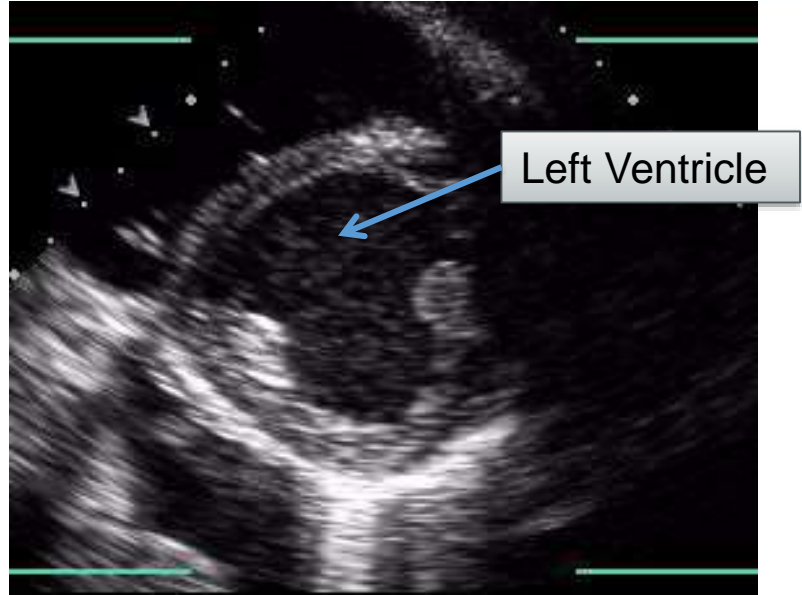
# Cirrhotic Cardiomyopathy



# Dobutamine Stress Echo



Baseline



Peak dobutamine dose of 50 ug/kg/min -

Systolic dysfunction: Blunted increase in cardiac output and HR with exercise, volume challenge or pharmacological stimuli or; Resting ejection fraction 55%

# Chronotropic Incompetence

At peak dobutamine dose of 50 ug/kg/min





# Cirrhotic Cardiomyopathy

Cardiac dysfunction in patients with cirrhosis of any etiology characterized by impaired contractile responsiveness to stress and/or altered diastolic relaxation with electrophysiological abnormalities in the absence of other known cardiac disease

As Cirrhotic Cardiomyopathy manifests (only) under stress it remains an underrecognized condition

Cardiac muscle dysfunction, systolic and/or diastolic in patients with ESLD in the absence of known heart disease (2019).

The heart at rest may manifest no cardiac dysfunction

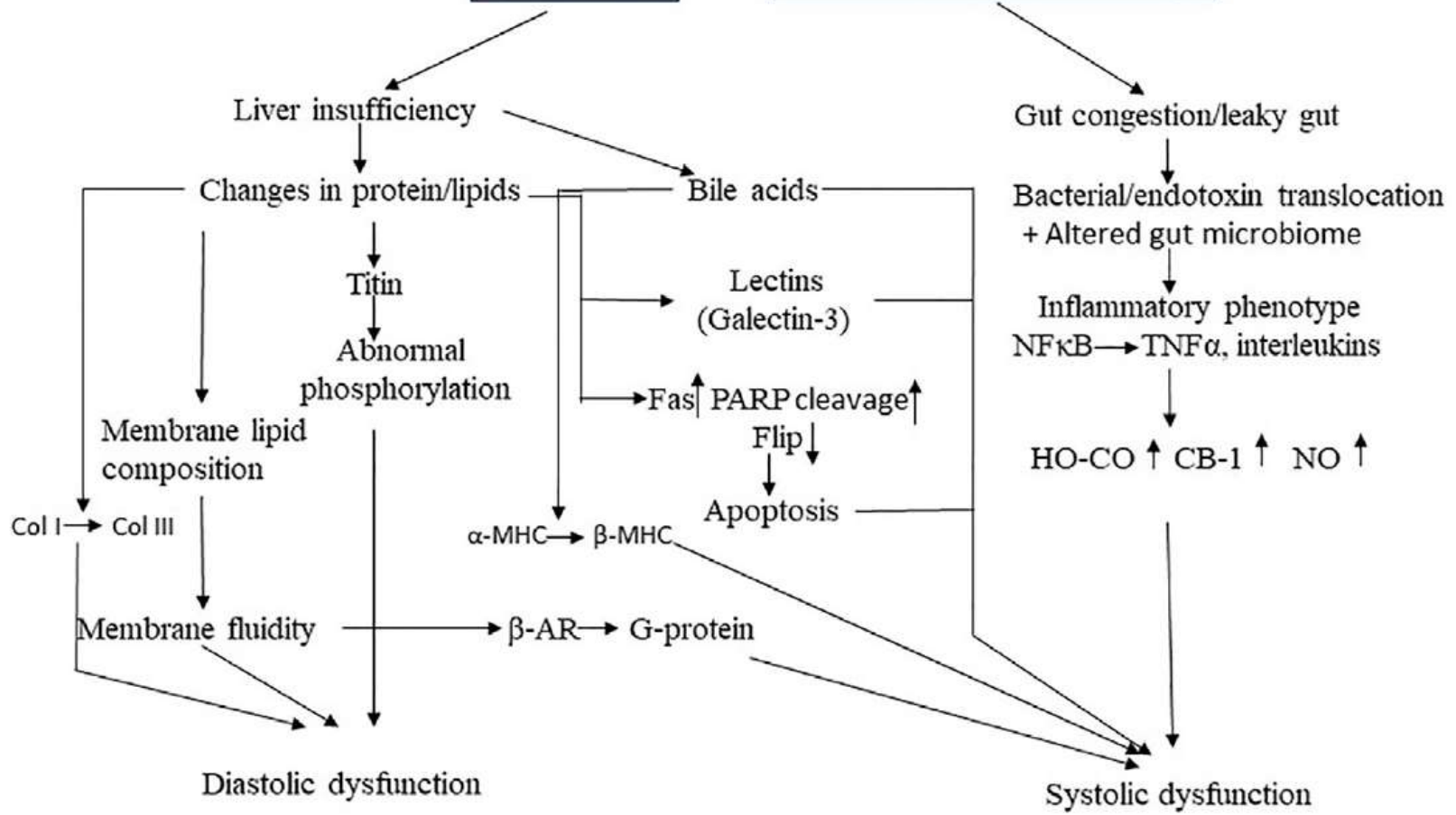
# Cirrhotic Cardiomyopathy

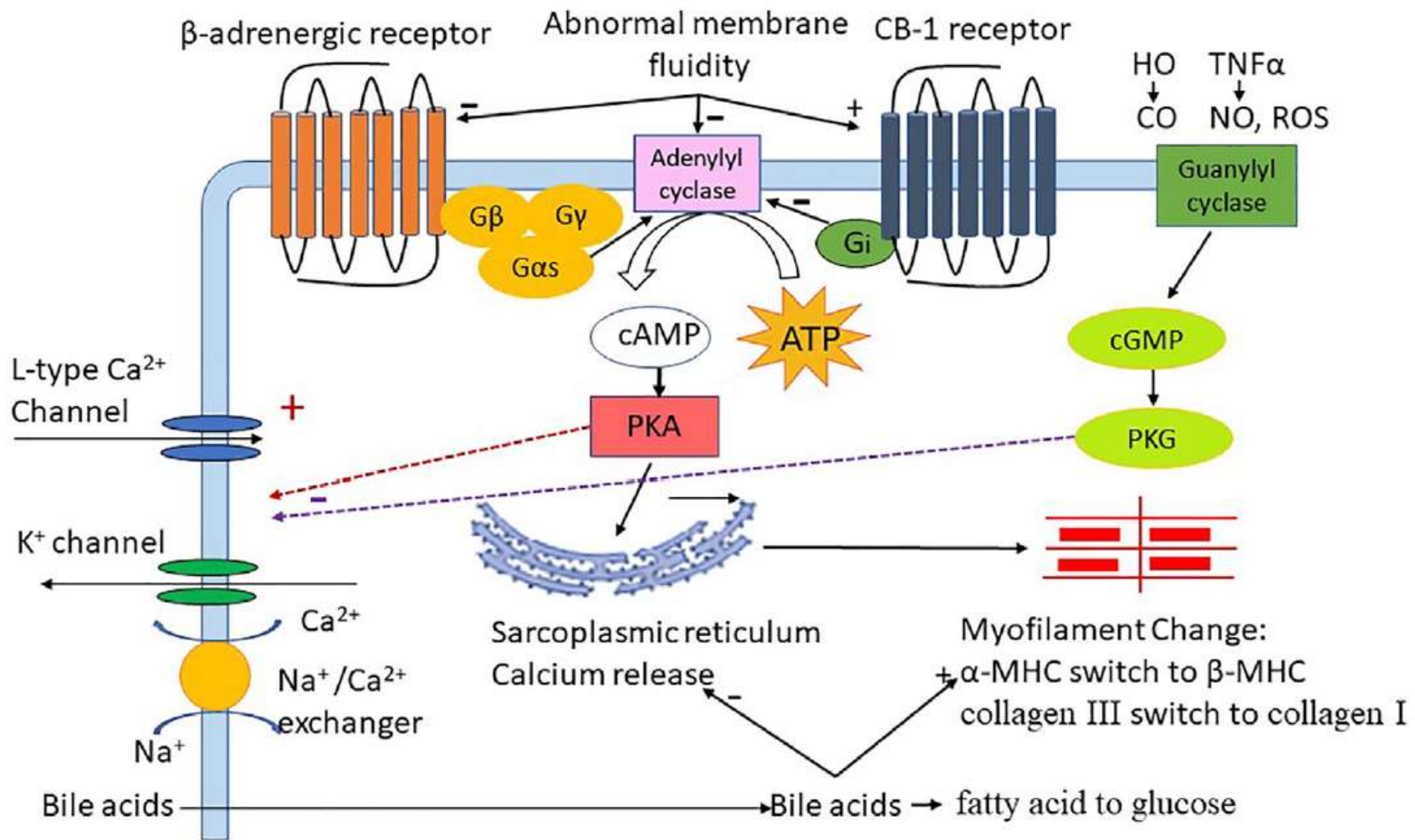
## The Heart, when the Liver Fails

Two concurrent mechanistic pathways:

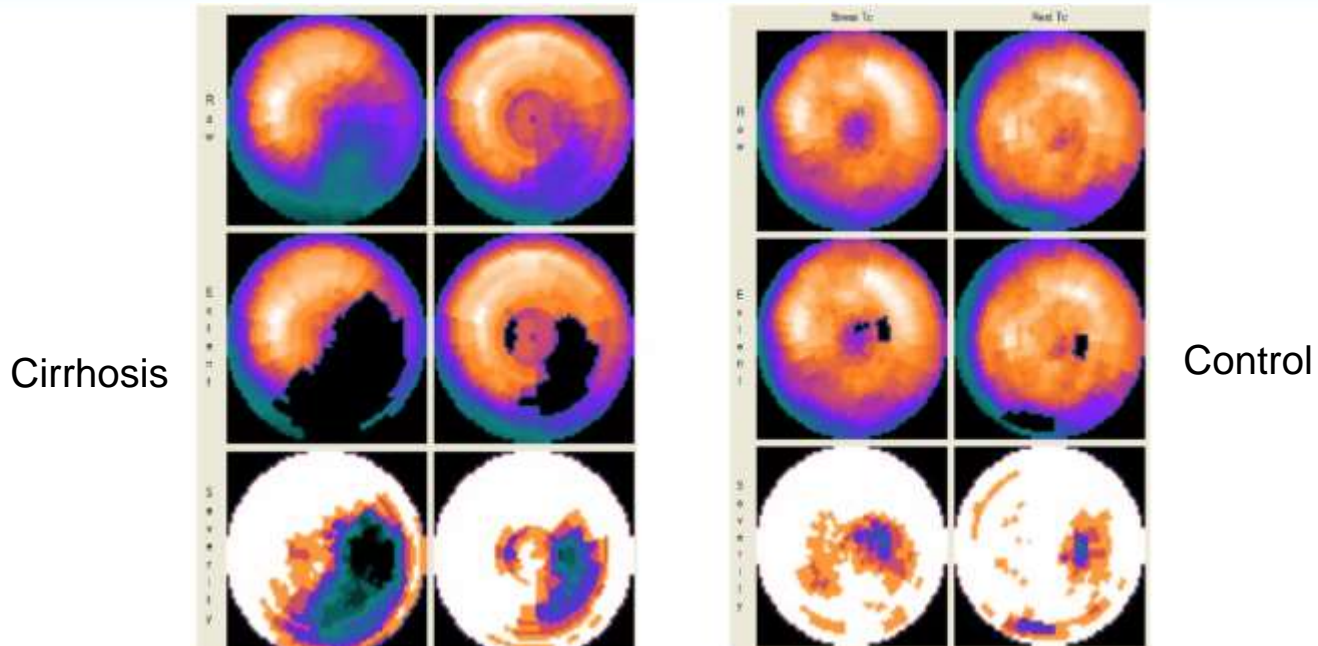
- Inflammatory phenotype due to portal hypertension with intestinal congestion resulting in bacteria/endotoxin translocation into the systemic circulation and cytokine storm: TNF $\alpha$ , IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-6 with cardiac dysfunction (apoptosis, hypertrophy, fibrosis). Also NO, CO and endocannabinoid CB-1 pathways that mediate myocardial depression and  $\beta$  adrenergic blockade
- Protein/Lipid Synthetic/Metabolic defects: Abnormalities in Titin and Collagen synthesis leading to diastolic dysfunction; increase in bile acids with switch from  $\alpha$  to  $\beta$  MHC; abnormal sarcolemmal and cell membranes with abnormal Ca flux

**CIRRHOSIS + PORTAL HYPERTENSION**



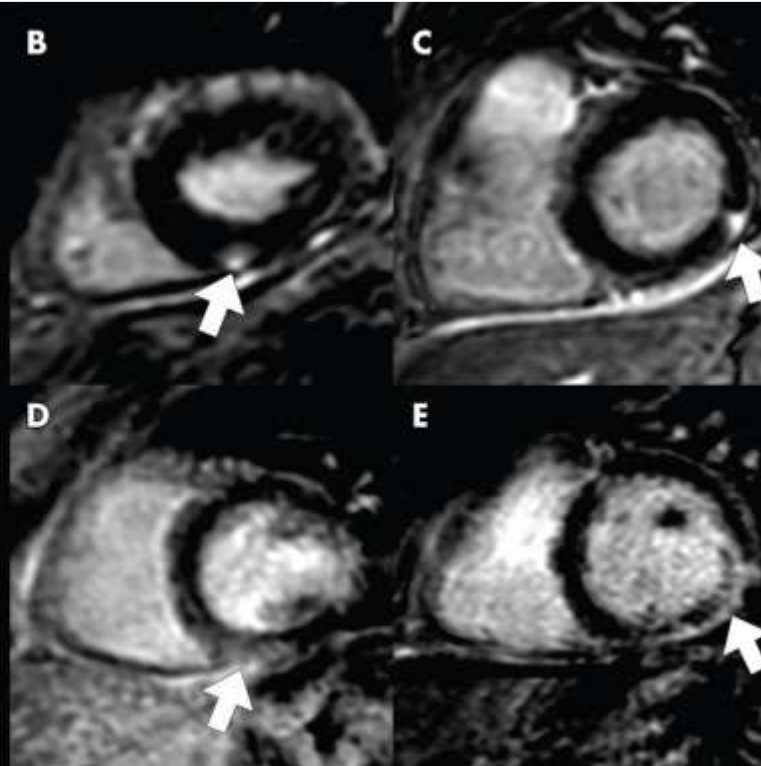
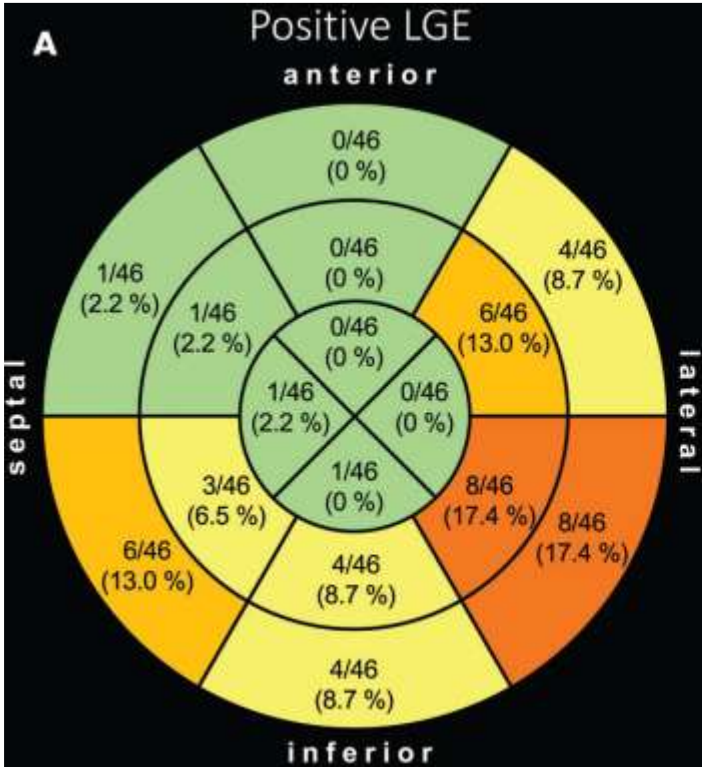


# Autonomic Dysfunction



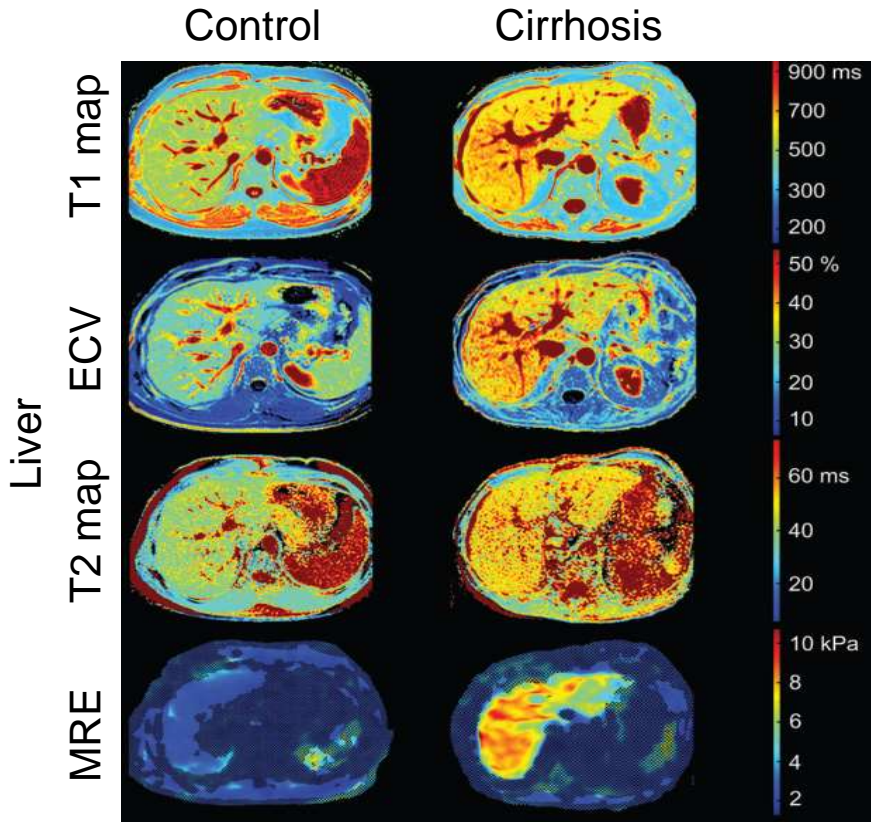
$\gamma$ -Camera imaging with *mIBG* reflects noradrenaline concentrations, storage, release and uptake

# Cirrhotic Cardiomyopathy



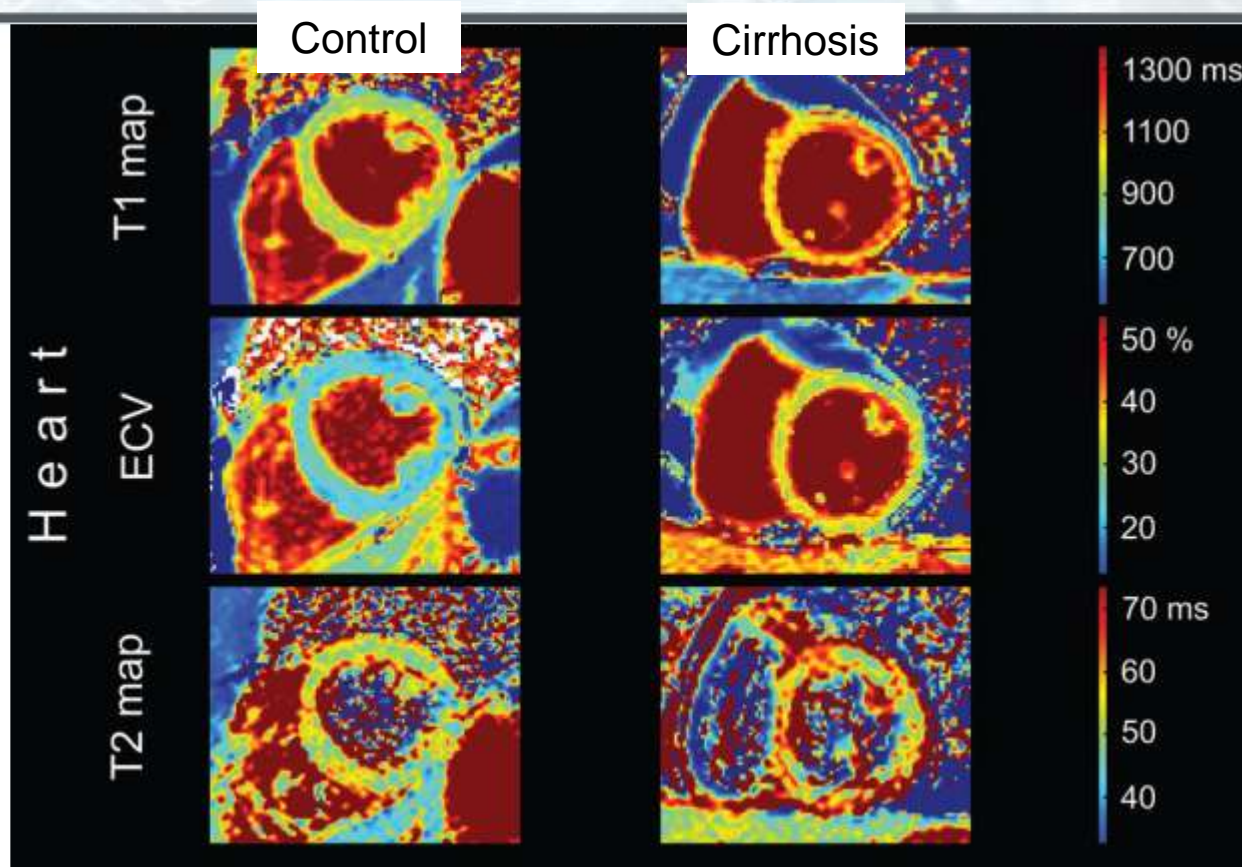
Patients with liver cirrhosis with positive LGE. A, Distribution of positive LGE according to myocardial segments indicate involvement of inferolateral/septal walls, B, C, focal and, D, E, diffuse pattern (arrows).

# Cirrhotic Cardiomyopathy



Hepatic and cardiac MRI in a healthy control and participant with Child-Pugh class B cirrhosis. Quantitative maps are given for hepatic and cardiac T1 relaxation times, extracellular volume fraction (ECV), T2 relaxation time, and MR elastography (MRE)-based liver stiffness. Quantitative parameters are considerably higher in participant with cirrhosis.

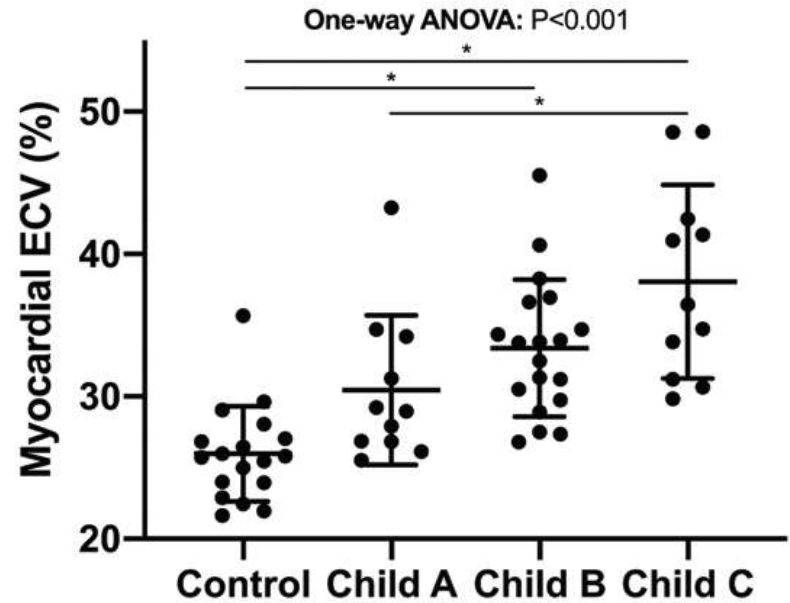
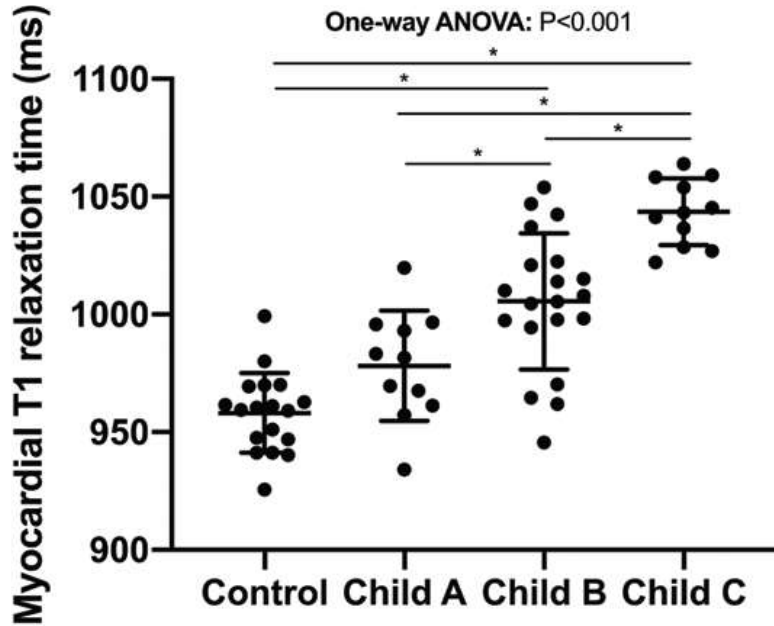
# Cirrhotic Cardiomyopathy



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# Cirrhotic Cardiomyopathy

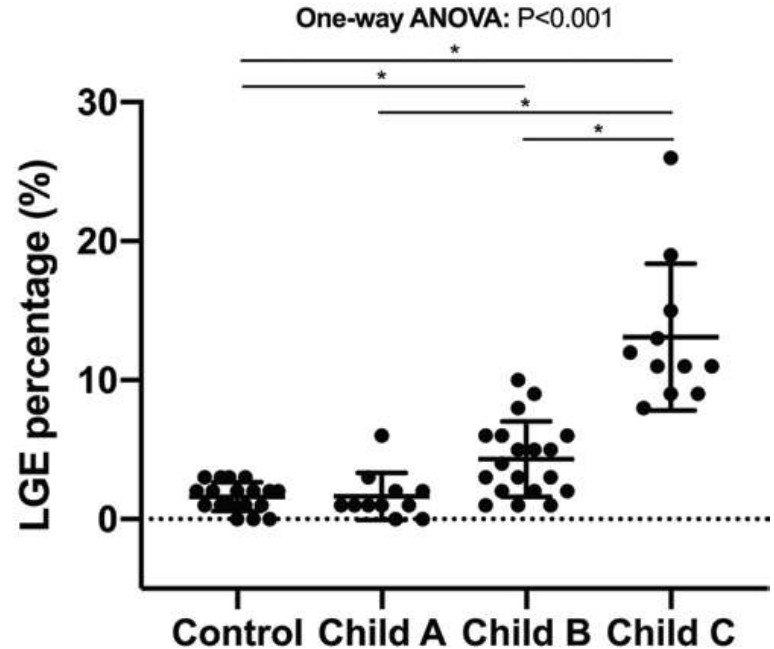
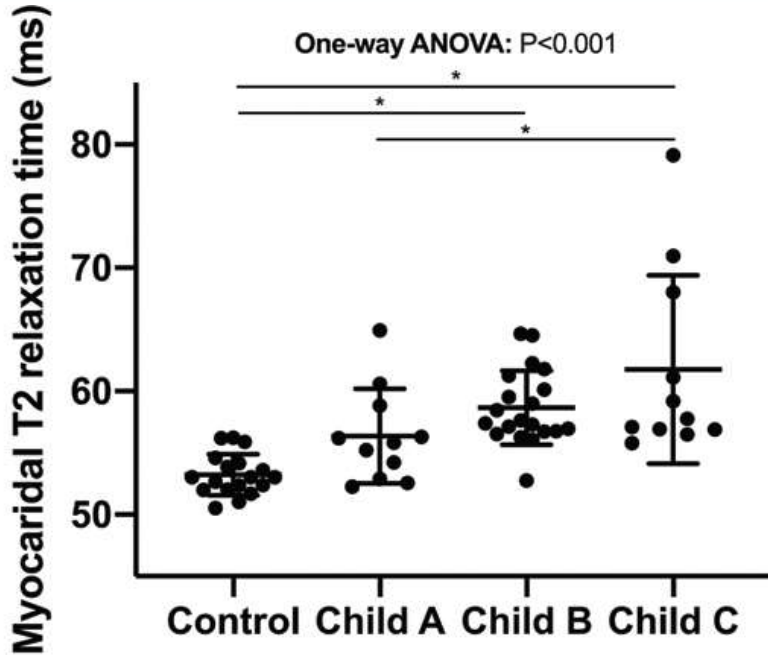


a.

b.

Quantitative myocardial MRI parameters in control group and in clinically subclassified cirrhosis group (Child-Pugh classes A, B, and C)

# Cirrhotic Cardiomyopathy



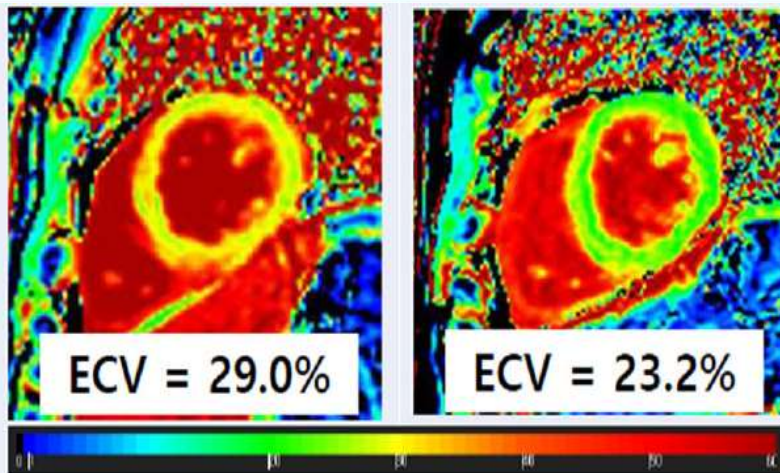
Quantitative myocardial MRI parameters in control group and in clinically subclassified cirrhosis group (Child-Pugh classes A, B, and C)

# Cirrhotic Cardiomyopathy Cardiac Changes in Liver Cirrhosis

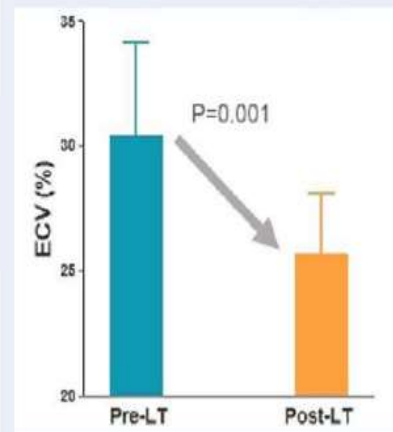
Before liver transplantation

1 year after liver transplantation

Increased myocardial ECV

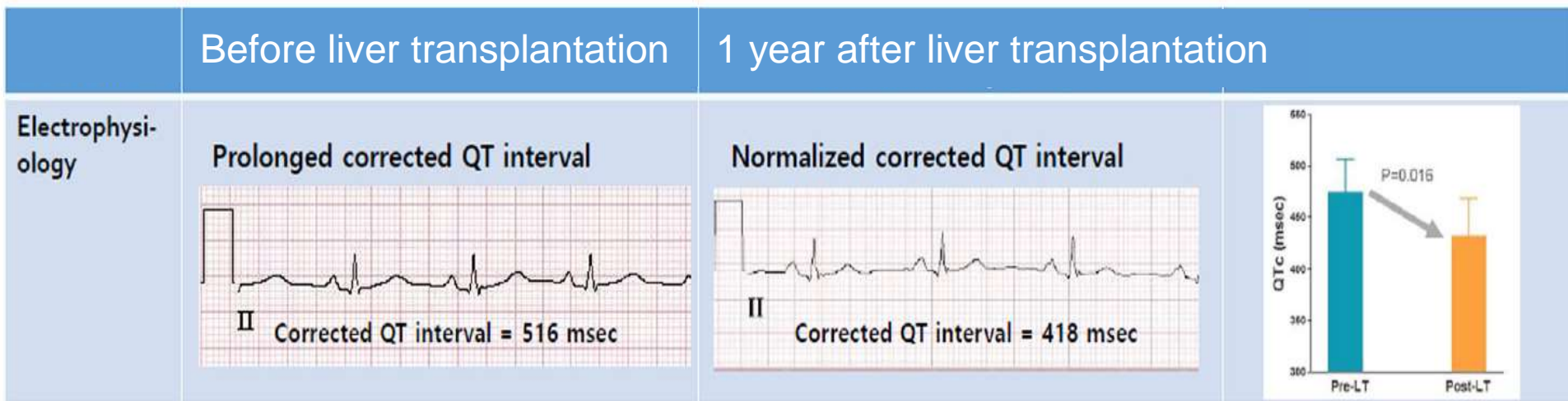


Normalized myocardial ECV



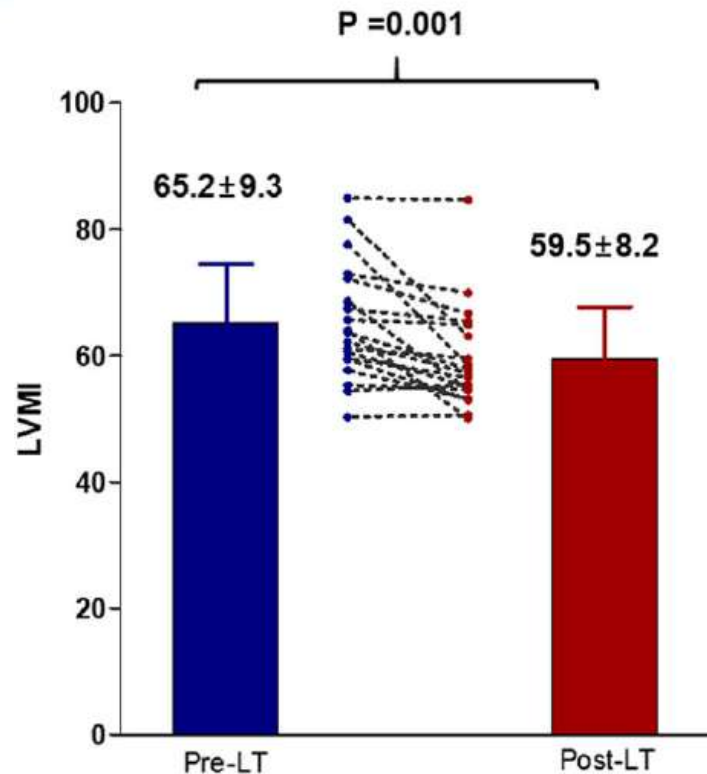
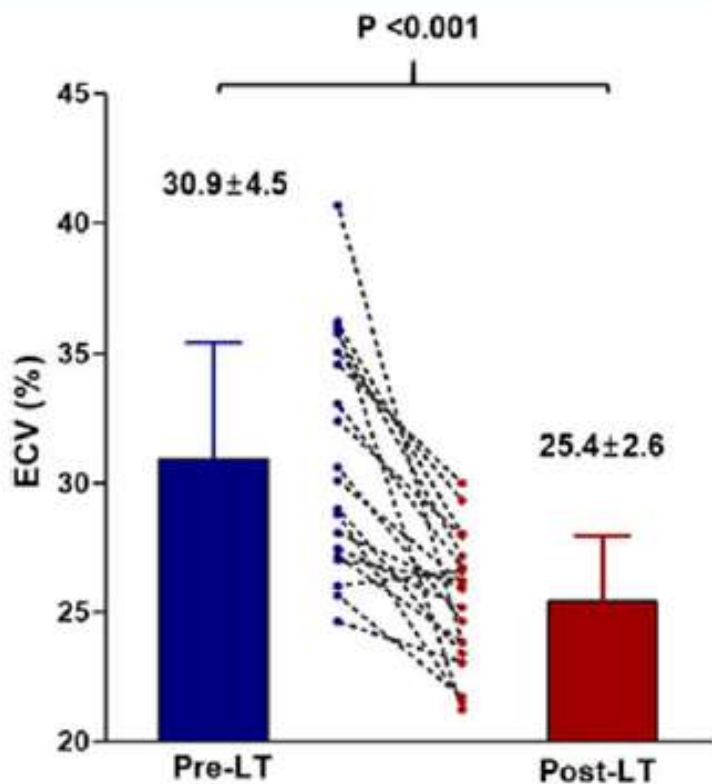
Myocardial structural, functional, and electrophysiological changes pre- and post-liver transplantation. Extracellular volume fraction; Global longitudinal strain; corrected QT interval

# Cirrhotic Cardiomyopathy Cardiac Changes in Liver Cirrhosis

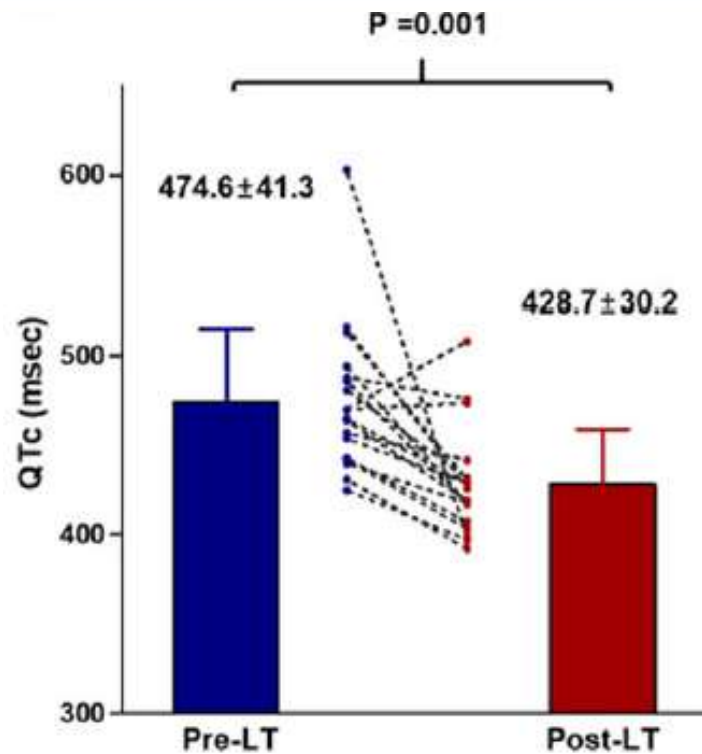
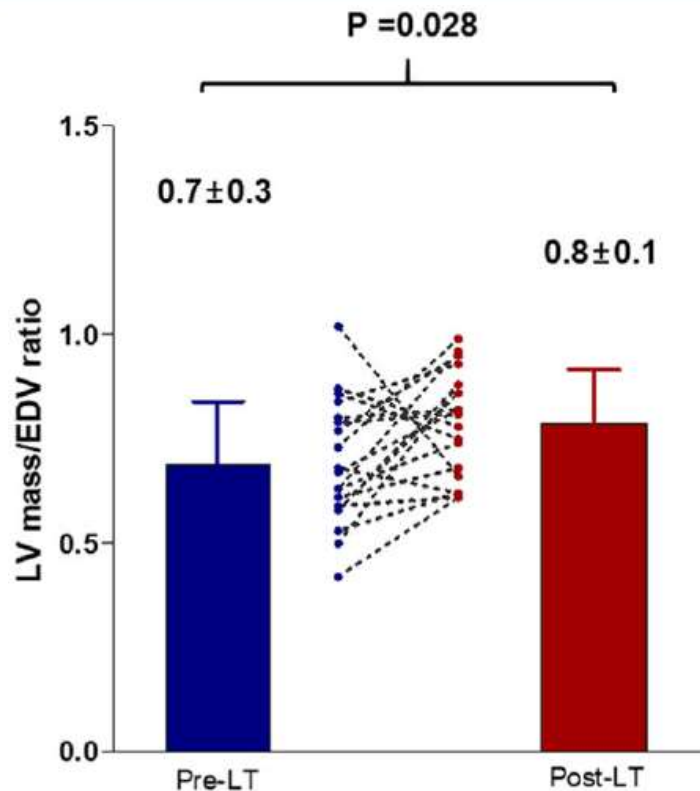


Myocardial structural, functional, and electrophysiological changes pre- and post-liver transplantation. ECV, extracellular volume fraction; GLS, left ventricular global longitudinal strain; QTc, corrected QT interval

# Cirrhotic Cardiomyopathy



# Cirrhotic Cardiomyopathy



# Cirrhotic Cardiomyopathy: 2005 Criteria

## World Congress of Gastroenterology Criteria (2005)

<b>Systolic Dysfunction</b>	<b>Diastolic Dysfunction</b>	<b>Supportive Criteria</b>
Any of the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• LVEF &gt;55% Blunted contractile response on stress testing</li><li>• LV ejection fraction &lt;55%</li></ul>	Any of the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deceleration time &gt;200ms</li><li>• IVRT &gt;80 milliseconds</li><li>• E/A &lt;1</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Electrophysiological abnormalities</li><li>• Abnormal chronotropic response</li><li>• Electromechanical uncoupling</li><li>• Prolonged QTc interval</li><li>• Enlarged left atrium</li><li>• Increased myocardial mass</li><li>• Increased BNP</li><li>• Increased proBNP</li><li>• Increased troponin I</li></ul>

# Cirrhotic Cardiomyopathy: 2019 Criteria

## Proposed criteria by the Cirrhotic Cardiomyopathy Consortium (2019)

### Systolic Dysfunction

Any of the following:  
LVEF  $\leq 50\%$   
Absolute GLS  $< 18\%$

### Advanced Diastolic Dysfunction

$\geq 3$  of the following:  
Septal  $e'$  velocity  $< 7$  cm/sec  
 $E/e'$  ratio  $\geq 15$   
LAVI  $> 34$  mL/m<sup>2</sup>  
TR velocity  $> 2.8$  m/sec

### Areas for Future Research Which Require Further Validation

Abnl chronotropic or inotropic response  
Electrocardiographic changes  
Electromechanical uncoupling  
Myocardial mass change  
Serum biomarkers  
Chamber enlargement  
CMRI

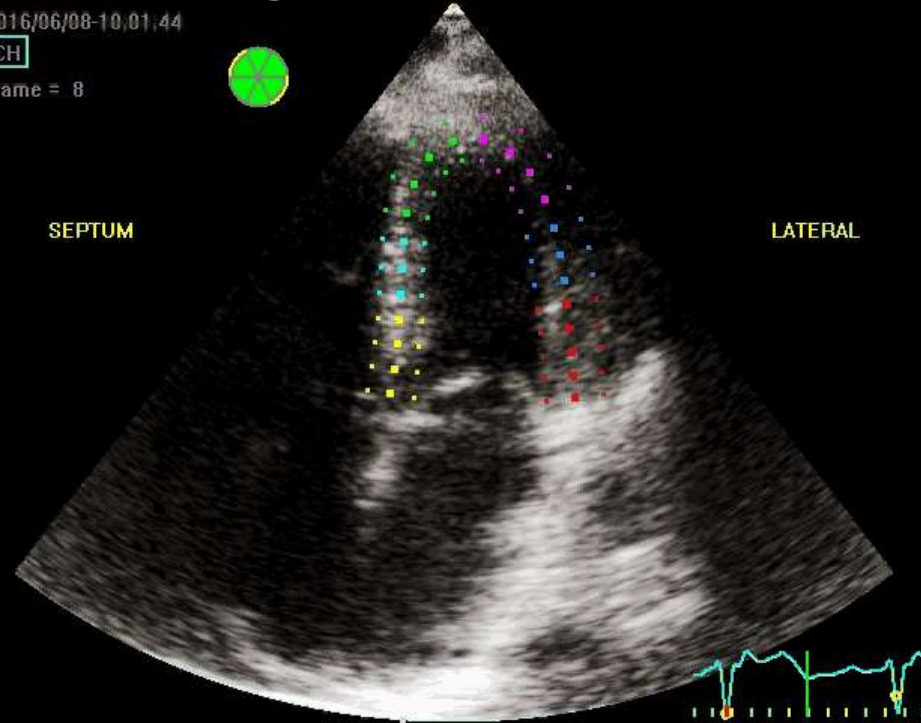


# Longitudinal Strain

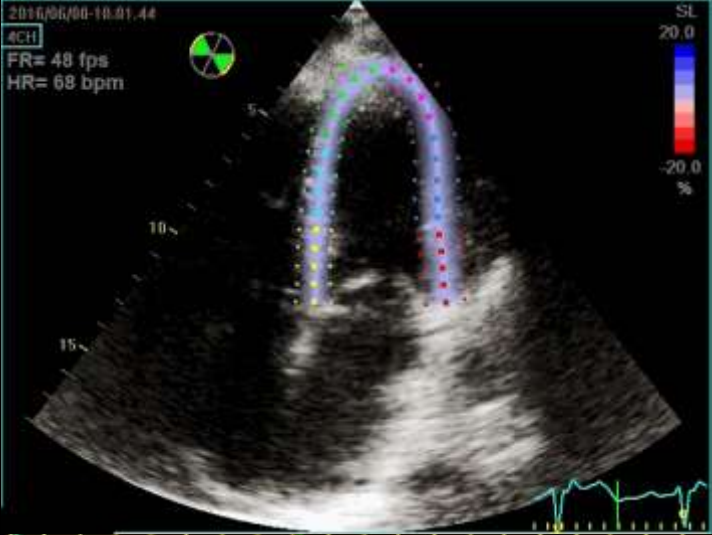
2016/06/08-10,01,44

4CH

Frame = 8



Slide courtesy of Alfonso Waller, MD, Rutgers NJMS



Slide courtesy of Alfonso Waller, MD

# Cirrhotic Cardiomyopathy

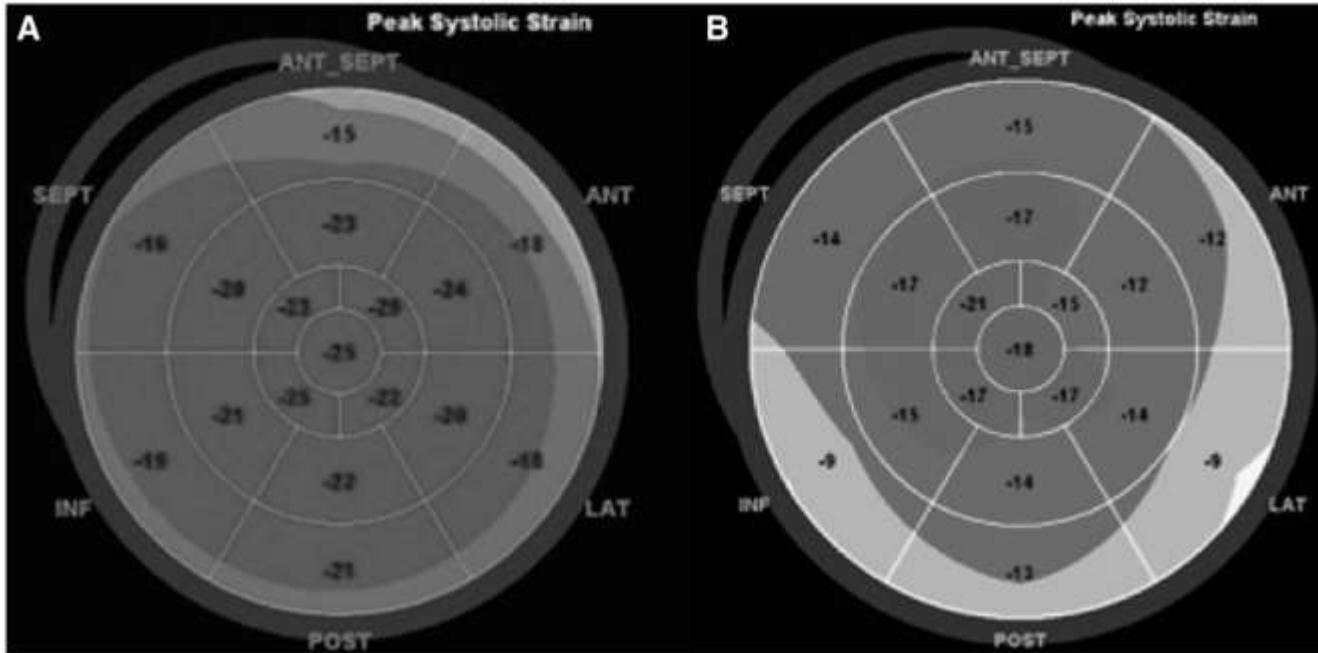
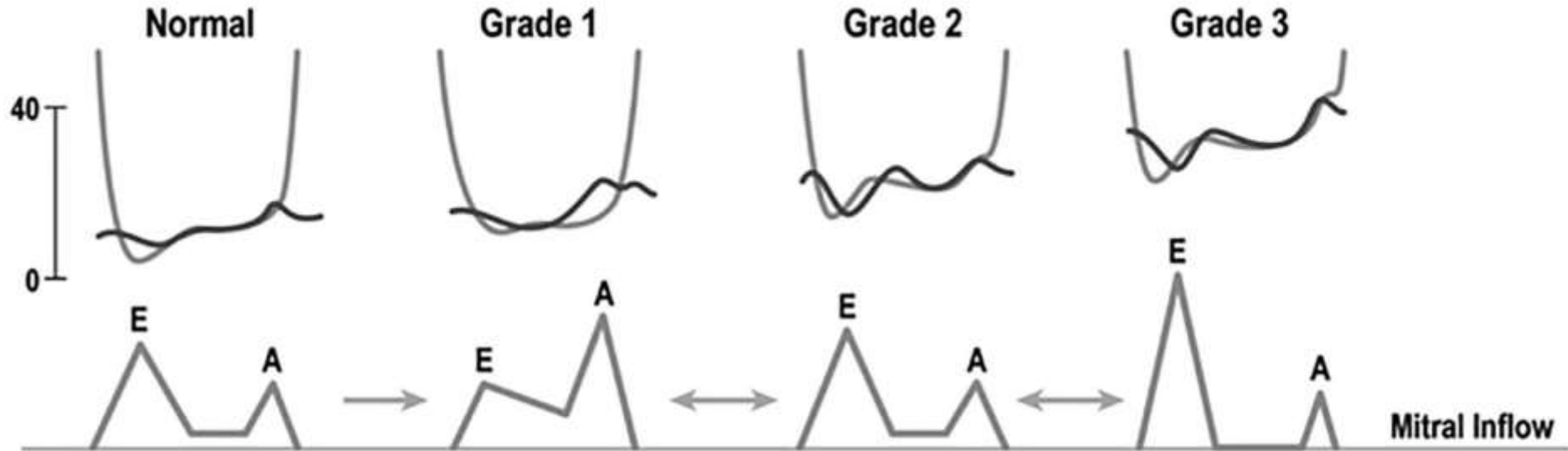
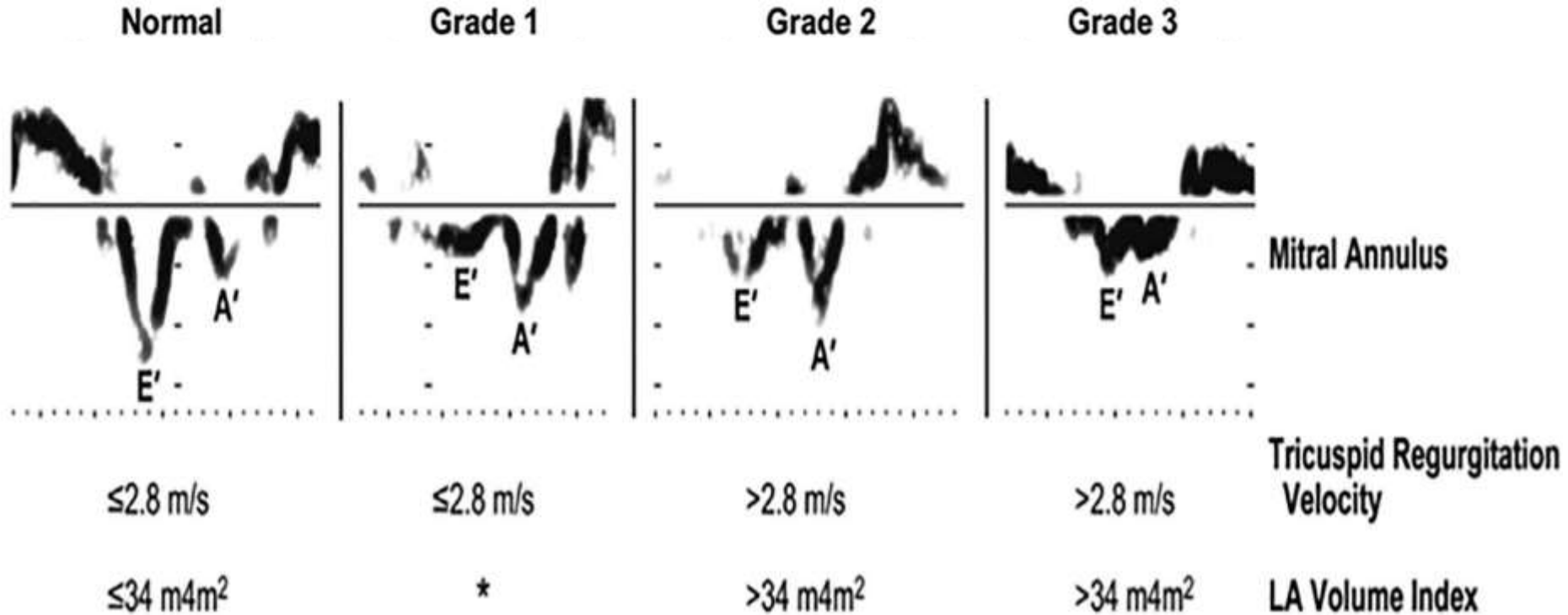


Illustration of strain imaging as a surrogate for cardiac systolic function. This “Bull’s eye” diagram of the myocardium shows (A) normal strain imaging (global longitudinal strain of  $-21\%$ ) and (B) abnormal strain imaging (global longitudinal strain of  $-14\%$ ). Diminished strain in patients with end stage liver disease in the absence of known heart disease is diagnostic of cirrhotic cardiomyopathy.

# Diastolic Function/Dysfunction



# Diastolic Function/Dysfunction



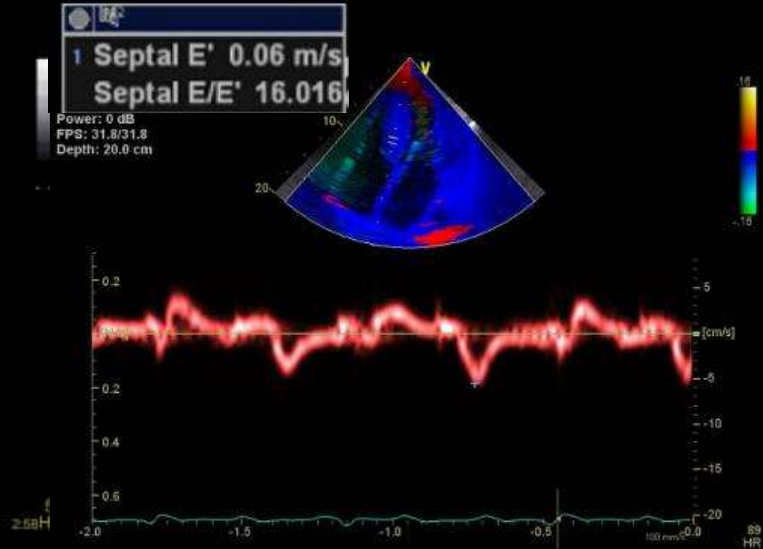
# Importance of Septal E'

07/01/2022 09:11:16 AM  
FPS: 40  
C: 1.7 MHz/3.3 MHz  
P: 0 dB  
GB: 10 dB  
D: 24.0 cm



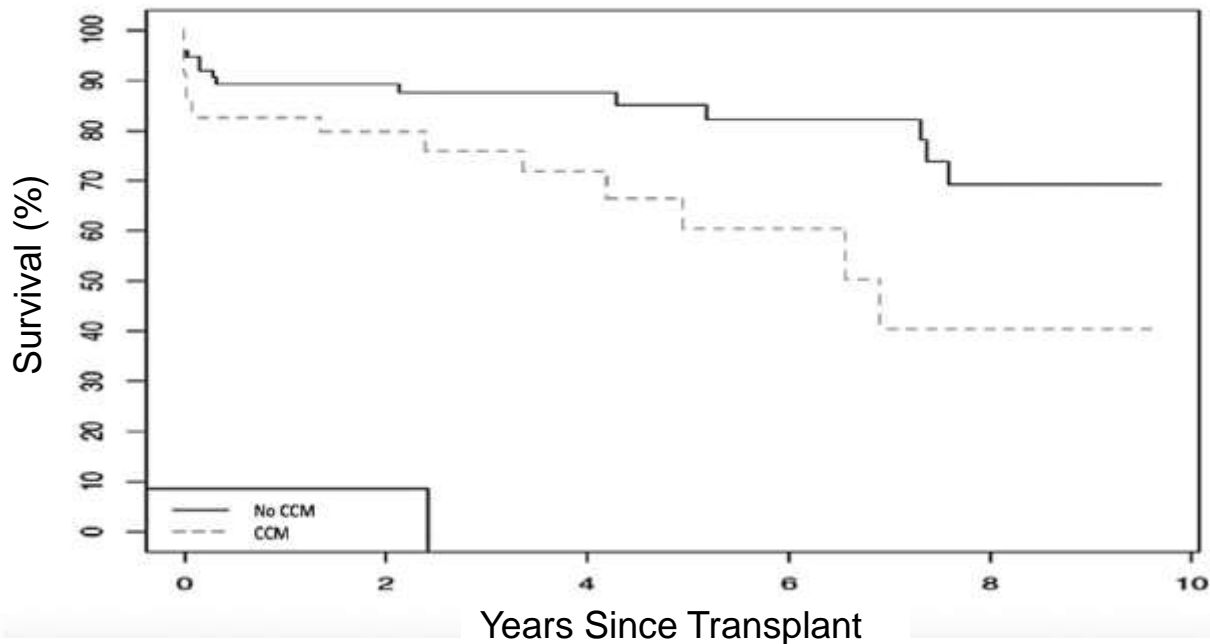
1 Septal E' 0.06 m/s  
Septal E/E' 16.016

Power: 0 dB  
FPS: 31.9/31.8  
Depth: 20.0 cm



# Cirrhotic Cardiomyopathy

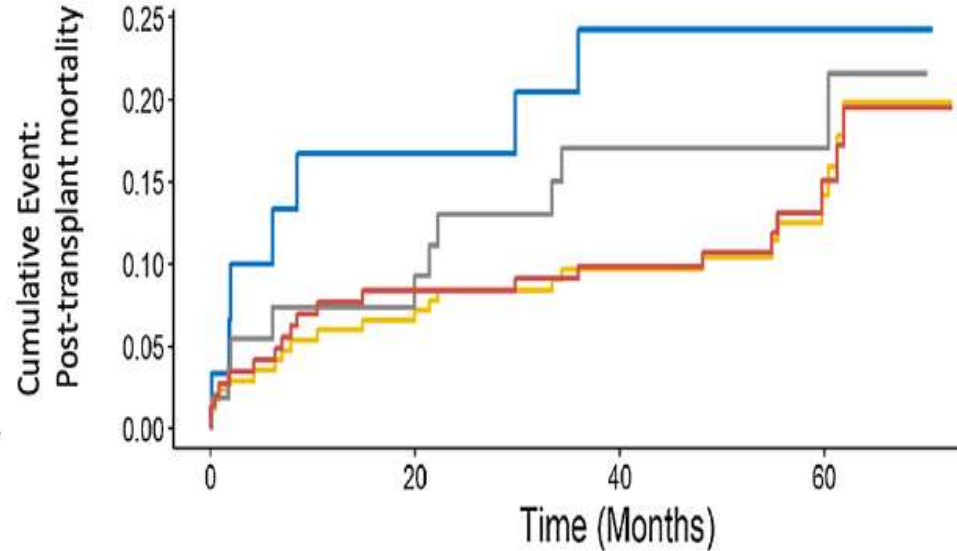
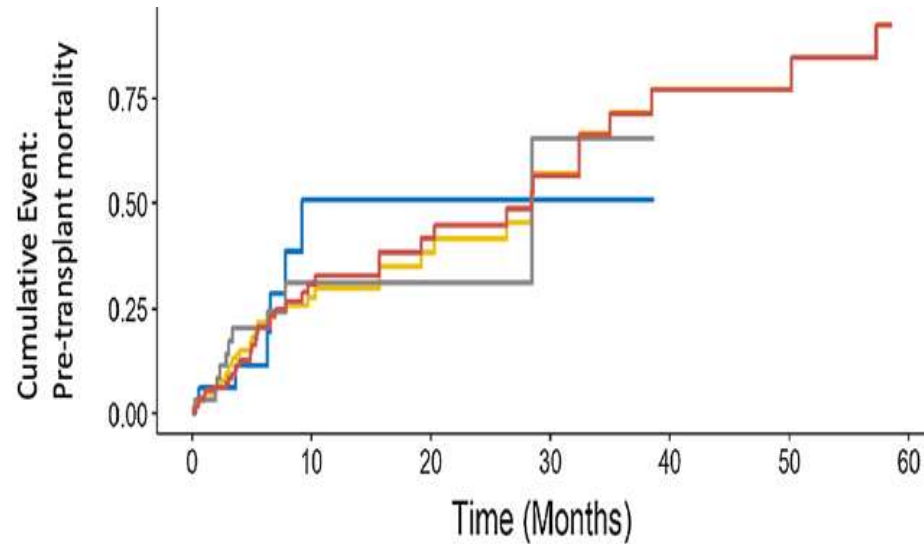
## Survivorship Free From CVD



Kaplan-Meier curve illustrating association of CCM with posttransplant new CVD.

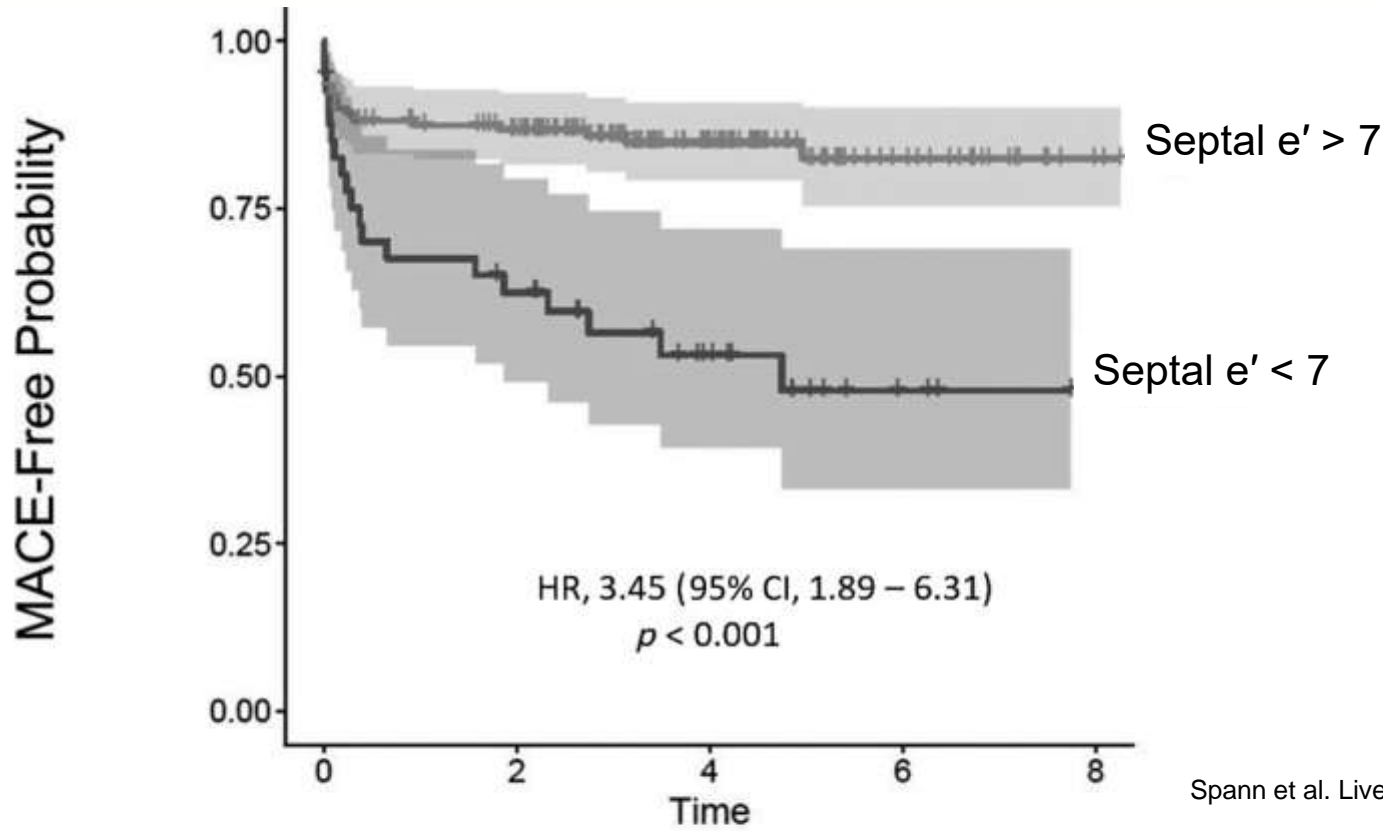
# Cirrhotic Cardiomyopathy

Groups: — Consortium CCM, No; — Consortium CCM, Yes; — WGO, No; — WGO, Yes;



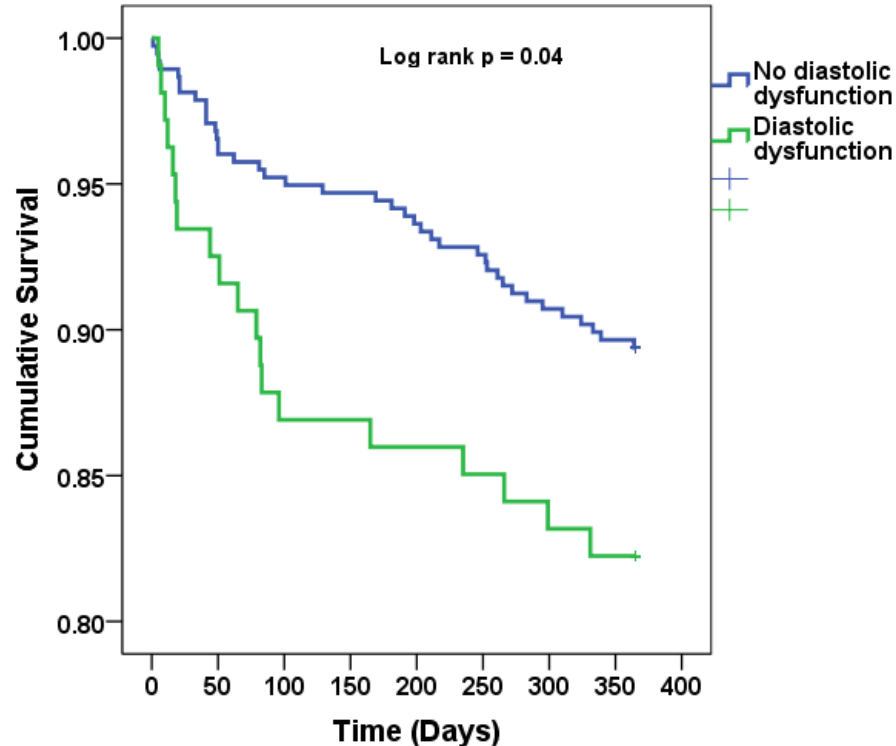


# Cirrhotic Cardiomyopathy



Kaplan–Meier curves for the unadjusted MACE-free survival model stratified by septal e' diagnostic cutoff of 7 cm/s per the revised CCM criteria

# LV Diastolic Dysfunction Predicts Mortality in Patients Who Underwent Liver Transplantation



# Cirrhotic Cardiomyopathy

Cardiac outcomes	Original CCM definition			Revised CCM definition		
	HR	95% CI	<i>p</i> value	HR	95% CI	<i>p</i> value
MACE	1.77	0.73–4.31	0.21	<b>1.93</b>	<b>1.05–3.56</b>	<b>0.04</b>
Arrhythmia	2.70	0.38–19.27	0.32	1.94	0.78–4.87	0.16
Heart failure	1.61	0.47–5.56	0.45	2.05	0.75–5.62	0.16
Cardiac arrest or cardiac death	2.06	0.44–9.67	0.36	2.68	0.97–7.38	0.06
All-cause mortality	1.15	0.47–2.86	0.76	1.25	0.59–2.65	0.56

Adjusted HRs for MACE after LT using Cox proportional hazards via inverse probability treatment weighting (controlled for diabetes mellitus, age, sex, smoking, and liver disease etiology)

# Cirrhotic Cardiomyopathy

## Epidemiology

- Limited data regarding true prevalence of cirrhotic cardiomyopathy because of near normal cardiac function at rest unless exposed to stress (Pharmacologic or physiologic stress, bacterial infection, TIPS or transplantation)
- ~50% of patient undergoing OLT develop some signs of cardiac dysfunction
- Majority of patients with Child-Pugh class B and C have at least one feature of CCM
- Using 2005 criteria ~65% of patients had CCM; with new criteria ~25% of patients

# Future Challenges

- To better identify latent cardiac dysfunction – systolic and diastolic as they appears to affect the clinical course in both the pre-OLT and post-OLT periods
- Earlier Dx to facilitate further progression and to possibly ‘cure’ pre-transplant
- Differentiate reversible from irreversible changes in myocardial structure and function i.e. to define when is OLT curative
- No clear treatments exist; Need to develop appropriate treatments for both latent and overt myocardial abnormalities that are present in association with liver disease