

POSTER PRESENTATION

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# Quantification of left atrial volume using cardiac magnetic resonance imaging: comparison of left atrial volume index measurements using the Simpson's and bi-plane area-length methods

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## Background

Increased left atrial volume index (LAVI) has been shown to be an independent predictor of hard cardiovascular events. It can be determined by calculating left atrial (LA) volume through the use of either Simpson's method or area-length method and indexing it to body surface area (BSA). Although there is no standardized method of calculating LA volume using Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging (CMR), the aforementioned methods, which were originally validated for 2-dimensional echocardiography, have been used. We sought to assess the agreement between LAVI, obtained with the use of cardiac gated steady state free precession cine pulse sequence of contiguous short axis slices (LAVI<sub>1</sub>) and area-length method (LAVI<sub>2</sub>).

## Methods

Thirty-six patients (28 males, age  $47.6 \pm 16.7$  years) who had adequate CMR imaging to analyze LA volumes using the two methods were retrospectively identified. LAVI<sub>1</sub> was calculated using Simpson's stack of discs method on short axis cine images (acquired as 8 mm slices with inter slice gap of 2 mm or 6 mm slices with no gap). LAVI<sub>2</sub> was measured using the American Society of Echocardiography guidelines. Qmass software (Medis) was used to trace LA areas and volumes.

## Results

The mean ( $\pm$  SD) values for LAVI<sub>1</sub> and LAVI<sub>2</sub> were  $44.9 (\pm 17.3)$  and  $45.6 (\pm 18.4)$  respectively. There was a significant correlation between LAVI<sub>1</sub> and LAVI<sub>2</sub>

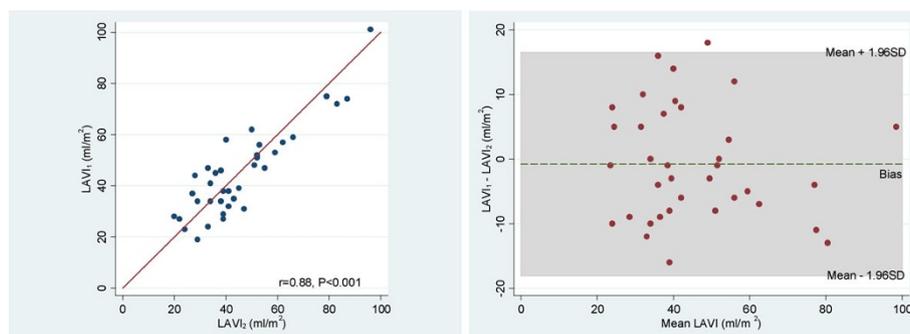


Figure 1 A: Correlation plot of LAVI1 and LAVI2 Figure 1B: Bland-Altman plot of LAVI1 and LAVI2.

( $r = 0.88$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) (Figure 1A). Bland Altman analysis showed a mean difference ( $\pm$  SD) of  $-0.75 \pm 8.8$  mL/m<sup>2</sup> between LAVI<sub>1</sub> and LAVI<sub>2</sub>, with limits of agreement (-18.0, 16.5) (Figure 1B).

### Conclusions

LAVI determined by the Simpson's method of discs and the bi-plane area-length method correlate well in CMR imaging. Our data do not suggest the two methods can be used interchangeably given wide limits of agreement.

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