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Diastolic function in 2018: Relaxation and filling pressure

The American College of Cardiology Foundation/American Heart Association guidelines define the heart failure with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF) as clinical signs and symptoms of HF, preserved ejection fraction, and no other obvious explanation for symptoms. This scheme works well for patients with a high likelihood of disease on the basis of clinical indicators of congestion. To address the patients without overt congestion, more recent guideline statements from the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) and American Society of Echocardiography/European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging (ASE/EACVI) require objective evidence of high left ventricular filling pressures. While echocardiographic grading of left ventricular diastolic dysfunction is used every day, the interactions between diastolic dysfunction grade at echocardiography and the hemodynamic abnormalities are still not completely clarified. Collectively, there is growing evidence that the diastolic stress test can provide important diagnostic findings that can be helpful in the management of patients presenting with dyspnea of an unclear etiology. Doppler echocardiography can non-invasively characterize left ventricular diastolic function through a combination of measurements, which show evidence of slowed ventricular relaxation, increased left ventricular stiffness or abnormal left ventricular filling. Doppler echocardiography can also provide an estimate of left ventricular filling pressures, one component of diastolic function that reflects pulmonary capillary wedge pressure.

Biography

Fabiola Sozzi works as a staff cardiologist at the University Hospital Policlinico of Milan, Italy, with high-specialization nomination. She has high skills in multimodality imaging of heart disease using echocardiography integrated with cardiac magnetic resonance imaging, cardiac computed tomography and nuclear. She also works in the acute clinical setting treating acute cardiac syndromes. She gained a high expertise in echocardiography at the Thoraxcentre of Rotterdam (NL), where she defended the PhD thesis on stress cardiac imaging under the supervision of Professor J. Roelandt. She is Visiting Professor at the University of Milan where she leads several research projects and teaches at the Faculty of Medicine and School of Specialization of Cardiology. She is author of 70 papers published in indexed peer-reviewed international journals and reviewer of several medical international journals.

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