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Echocardiographic reference intervals for end-diastolic and end-systolic left ventricle volumes obtained by Simpson's method of discs in healthy showjumping and polo Argentinian Saddlebred horses

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ABSTRACT



The left ventricle volume quantification is a critical component of standard echocardiography. Therefore, this study aimed to establish breed-specific echocardiographic reference intervals for end-diastolic and end-systolic volumes using Simpson's method of discs (SMOD) in healthy showjumping and polo Argentinian Saddlebred horses.



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ABSTRACT



The central 90% reference limit was calculated, and its confidence and reference intervals were reported with 90% confidentiality. A comparison was performed between cardiac SMOD-derived and Teichholz-derived volumes and between males and females.



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ABSTRACT



A total of 117 horses (43 females and 77 males) weighing 445–690 kg (521 ± 56 kg) with similar training were selected to create the reference intervals. SMOD-derived end-diastolic volume indexed (EDVI) was 1.32 ml/kg, RI from 1.26 to 1.37 ml, and SMOD-derived end-systolic volume indexed (ESVI) was 0.47 ml/kg, RI from 0.43 to 0.50 ml.



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ABSTRACT



There was a significant difference between EDVI SMOD-derived and EDVI Teichholz-derived volumes ($p < 0.001$, $d = 1.14$). In addition, ESVI SMOD-derived volumes differed from Teichholz-derived volumes ($p < 0.05$, $r = 0.33$). EDVI was statistically similar between males and females ($p = 0.721$). ESVI was statistically similar between males and females ($p = 0.122$).



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ABSTRACT



In conclusion, it is feasible and reproducible to obtain SMOD-derived volumes in horses as in humans and dogs with standard views modifications and reference intervals are reported for clinical and research purposes, especially when accurate quantification of ventricular volumes and ejection fraction are needed.



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ABSTRACT



Keywords: Horses, cardiac volumes, echocardiography, left ventricle, reference intervals.



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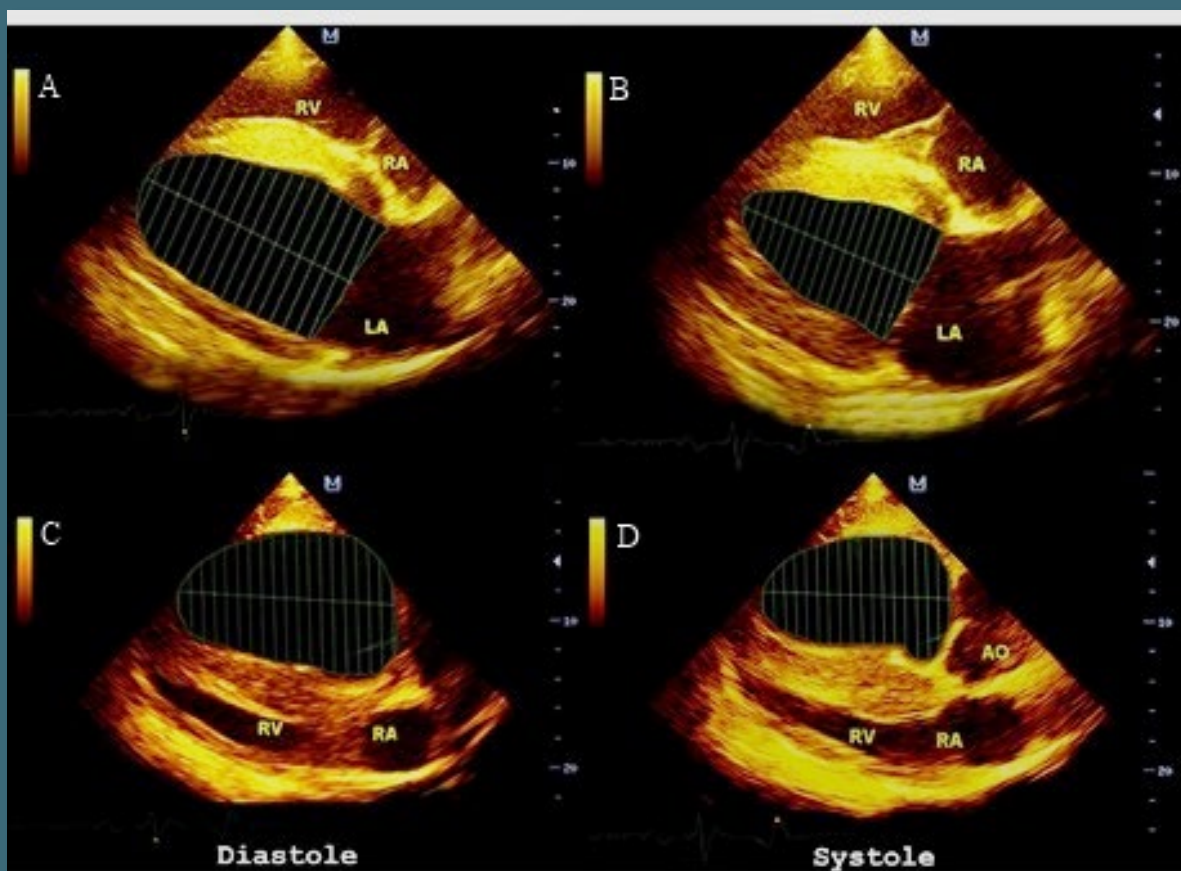


Figure 1 – Simpson's method of disc measurement performed on a standard 2-D right parasternal long-axis view of the left atrium and ventricle in diastole (A) and systole (B), and from the 2-D left parasternal long-axis view in diastole (C) and systole (D). A.O.: aorta; LA: left atrium; LV: left ventricle; R.A.: right atrium; R.V.: right ventricle.

$$\sqrt{\frac{(Measure1 - Measure2)^2}{2}}$$

The absolute intra- and inter-observer variability was calculated using the following formula:

$$\frac{\sqrt{\frac{(Measure1 - Measure2)^2}{2}}}{\frac{(Measure1 + Measure2)}{2}}$$

The relative intra- and inter-observer variability was calculated using the following formula:



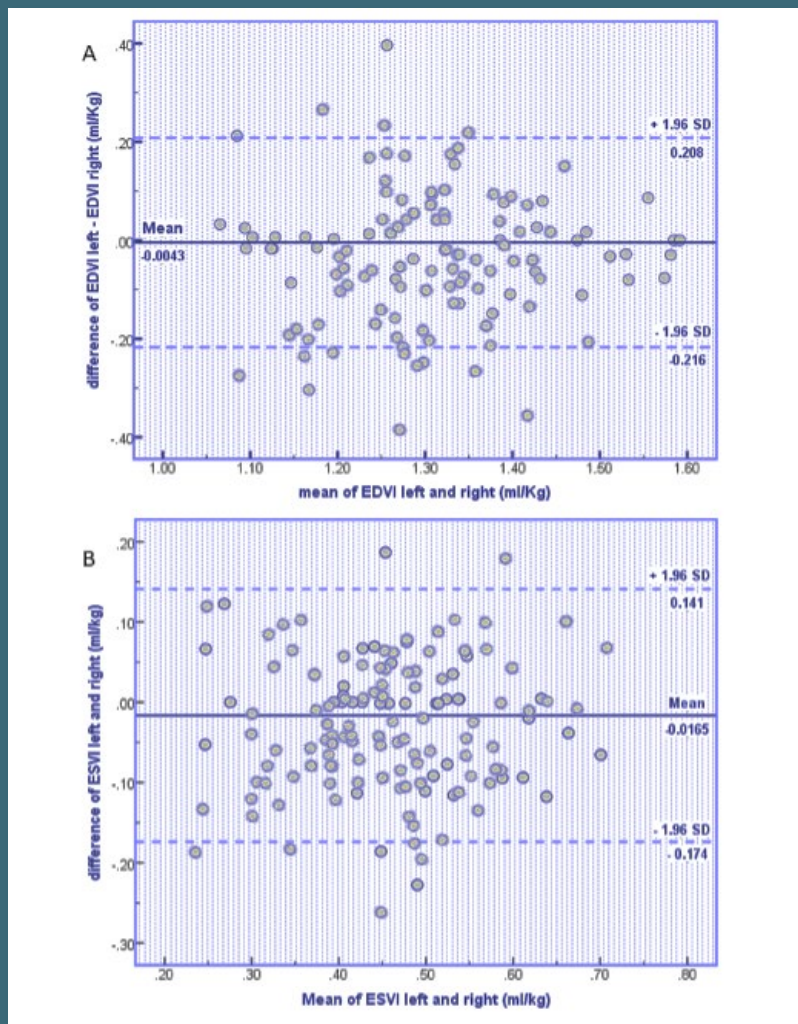
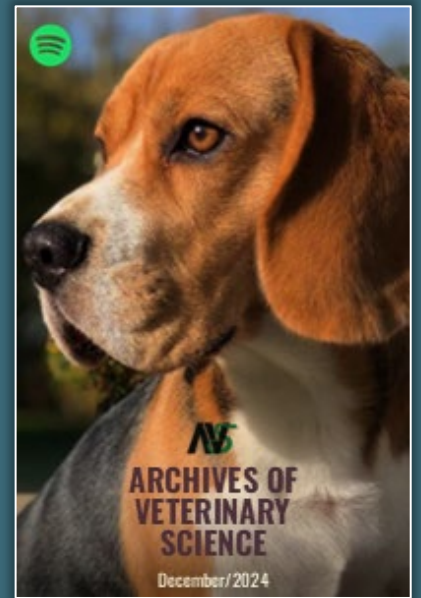


Figure 2 – The Bland-Altman plot for SMOD-derived volumes indexed to the B.W. between measurements of EDVI (A) and ESVI (B) obtained from the right parasternal. EDVI right: end-diastolic volume index to body weight (B.W.) in right and left parasternal views; EDVI left end-diastolic volume indexed to B.W. in left parasternal view; ESVI right: end-systolic volume indexed to B.W. in right parasternal view; ESVI left end-systolic volume indexed to B.W. in the left parasternal view.



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CONCLUSION



In conclusion, this study demonstrated that obtaining SMOD-derived volumes is both feasible and reproducible in horses, with breed-specific reference intervals provided. The end-diastolic and end-systolic volumes derived from SMOD measurements in Showjumping and Polo Argentinian Saddlebred horses represent the first data of this kind for these breeds and this information is valuable for both clinical and research applications. Notably, effect size was reported alongside the variables, which is important for designing and interpreting future research and meta-analysis in this field.



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CONCLUSION



Consequently, studying the relationship between left ventricle volumes and athletic performance, as well as the effects of various training regimens and sports on cardiac volumes, would benefit from these data, improving our understanding of cardiovascular health in athletic horses.

Finally, SMOD-derived volumes are a simple, non-invasive echocardiographic measure that can be used before more advanced imaging techniques, such as real-time three-dimensional echocardiography or ECG-gated multidetector computed tomography angiography are available in equine cardiology.



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