

Reconstruction of the Aortic Valve and Root: A practical approach **3-dimensional echo in aortic valve repair**

THURSDAY 08 SEPTEMBER 2022 13.45 – 14.00



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EBAC Declaration of Interests Policy EBAC^{*} and Rules

I declare for the last 3 years and the subsequent 12 month the following conflicts of interests:

Section I: Support for Research Activities - grant of the DEGUM - no other financial research support Section II: Support for Educational Activities - MIFO, GE Healthcare, Astra Zeneca, Servier, Novartis, Pfizer, Cardiac Dimension, Abbott, Bayer, Canon, Kelcon

Section III: Honorarium for Promotional Activities - none Section IV: Personal Financial Interests in Vommercial Activities - none

IB1; 2A11 - Member of the German Society of Cardiology, the German Society of Ultrasound DEGUM), the German Society of Internal Medicine and the European Society of Cardiology/Cardiovascular Imaging





3-dimensional echo in aortic valve repair Complex understanding of navigation









how to visualize properly cardiac structures?





- 1. step: how adjust the central axis of AV during diastole to label the perpendicular plane through the hinge points
- 2. step: how to measure the maximum expansion of the LVOT during systole
- 3. step: how to adjust the plane of the virtual aortic anulus

Circulation Research, Vol. 35, December 1974

Problem 1: The adaequate level of the virtual anulus is necessary to determine quantitative parameter of cusp anatomy.

A Study of Functional Anatomy of Aortic-Mitral Valve Coupling Using 3D Matrix Transesophageal Echocardiography

Federico Veronesi, PhD; Cristiana Corsi, PhD; Lissa Sugeng, MD, MPH; Victor Mor-Avi, PhD; Enrico G. Caiani, PhD; Lynn Weinert, BS; Claudio Lamberti, MS; Roberto M. Lang, MD
Conclusions—This is the first study to report quantitative 3D assessment of the mitral and aortic valve dynamics from matrix array transesophageal images and describe the mitral-aortic coupling in a beating human heart. This ability may have impact on patient evaluation for valvular surgical interventions and prosthesis design. (*Circ Cardiovasc Imaging.* 2009;2:24-31.)

Problem 2:

Timing of the cardiac cycle by a proper ECG is necessary to determine comparable results between modalities (e.g. echo vs. CT).

Figure 2. A, Selection of anterior and posterior MA points on a cut plane representing 3-chamber view. B, Selection of AoA points. C, Automatically displayed aortic valve short axis cut plane on which interatrial (green dot) and coaptation point (red dot) are manually identified. D, Computed MA (cyan) and AoA (red, noncoronary cusp; orange, left cusp; yellow, right cusp) splines on RT3DE volume rendering.

Figure 1. Volume rendering of RT3DE mTEE data visualized from atrium (top) and in a long axis view (bottom).

Problem 2: A standardisation of the measurements of valvular geometry is necessary. Mostly the enddiastolic time point is chosen.

Figure 3. Schematic of automatically extracted AoA measurements.

Figure 5. Left, Mitral and aortic annuli computed from a RT3DE data set obtained in a patient with severe sclerocalcific aortic stenosis, shown superimposed on a 3-chamber view. Note that the angle between the 2 valves is severely reduced (93°) compared with normal subjects and also the distance between the 2 valve was just 18 mm and did not changed during cardiac cycle. The aortic stenosis was most likely responsible for the reduced change in projected AoA area during the cardiac cycle, having a negative impact on the aortic-mitral coupling as reflected by a decrease in maximum diastolic area change to only 12%, compared with 25.4% of the ED area in normal subjects (Table 1). Right, Mitral and aortic annuli computed from a RT3DE data set obtained in a patient with implanted mitral ring, shown superimposed on a 2-chamber view. Note the deformation in the shape of the AoA. In this subject, reduced motion of the mitral valve (4.5 mm maximum at ES) and reduced MA height (4.3 mm) at ED was noted. In addition, the intercommissural distances where asymmetrical: the distance between the commissures of the left cusp was smaller (18 mm) compared with the noncoronary and right cusps (28 and 27 mm, respectively). Moreover, the saddle shape of the MA was not preserved because of the rigid ring.

3-dimensional echo in aortic valve repair quantitative parameters of cusp geometry

1= orientation line at the level of the

tips of the "crown-like" ring

2=

orientation line at the level of the "hinge points"

4 = coaptationlength

3 = effective height

5 =

geometric height of the cusp, if centerline of the cusp is selected (in 2D-echo usually the right coronary cusp

Prerequisite for proper image quality in 2D as well as 3D echocardiography: knowledge about ultrasound physics and implementation of image optimization into the workflow by technical knowledge settings and training for a fast workflow.

Then, detailed analysis of aortic valve and aortic root morphology is possible. The spatial and temporal resolution of 3D TOE is at least comparable to cardiac-CT.

The same patients: "bad" settings versus optimized settings in 2D and 3D-TOE.

steps to measure aortic root morphology

3

- 1. Acquire a ZOOM data set preferrably the complete mitral valve and aortic root complex
- 2. Adjust the central axis of the aortic root in the long axis (systole/diastole)
- 3. Adjust the central axis of the aortic root in the perpendicular axis
- 4. Adjust the short axis to the hindge points by translation during diastole
- 5. Rotate the short axis view to control the sectional short axis plane..

3-dimensional echo in aortic valve repair adjusting sectional planes of central cusps

according Hagendorff A, Evangelista A, Fehske W, Schäfers HJ. JACC Cardiovasc Imaging. 2019 pii: S1936-878X(19)30172-X. doi: 10.1016/j.jcmg.2018.06.032

3-dimensional echo in aortic valve repair assessment of effective height

3-dimensional echo in aortic valve repair assessment of geometric height

according Hagendorff A, Evangelista A, Fehske W, Schäfers HJ. JACC Cardiovasc Imaging. 2019 pii: S1936-878X (19)30172-X. doi: 10.1016/

according Hagendorff A, Evangelista A, Fehske W, Schäfers HJ. JACC Cardiovasc Imaging. 2019 pii: S1936-878X (19)30172-X. doi: 10.1016/ j.jcmg.2018.06.032

3D-ZOOM-TOEdata set of the aortic root - 4-beat-nearreal-time-fullvolumeacquisition -

1 cm

3D-ZOOM-TOE-sata set of the aortic root focus on enddiastole (like CT) visualization of the comissures and symmetry of cusps

This still frame is at the end of the diastole, because data set is complete.

3D-ZOOM-TOE-data set of the aortic root - adjusting the sectional plane of the crown tips by translation perpendicular sectional plane throu the commissure between NCC and RCC

3D-ZOOM-TOE-data set of the aortic root - adjusting the sectional plane of the crown tips by translation perpendicular sectional plane throu the commissures between NCC/LCC and LCC/RCC

3D-ZOOM-TOE-data set of the aortic root - labeling of the crown tips using markers

3D-ZOOM-TOE-data 12/08/2022 12:03:30 set of the aortic root - crown tips are labeled by markers, proper alignement of sectional planes to label the nadirs (hindge points) of the RCC and LCC -

3D-ZOOM-TOE-data set of the aortic root - crown tips are labeled by markers, proper alignement of sectional plane to label the nadir (hindge points) of the NCC -

3D-ZOOM-TOE-data set of the aortic root - labeling of both, the crown tips and the hindge points of the cusps using markers -

hindge points parallel to the sectional plane of the crown tips?

3D-ZOOM-TOE-sata set of the aortic root focus on early diastole - labeling of crown tips and hindge points -

3D-ZOOM-TOEdata set of the aortic root

Madir NC

The relation of both sectinal planes differs during the time period of diastole.

Final recommendations according to the authors` experience and literature (1)

- The results of echocardiographic measurements of the AV and aortic root strongly depend on the time point of the cardiac cycle.
- The maximum anterior-posterior diameter of the LVOT, AV annulus, SV, ST junction and TAA obviously vary between systole and diastole.
- These dimensions are larger during systole than diastole, especially in younger patients with preserved compliance of the aortic root.
- These dimensions are important for decision making in AV reconstruction, which is generally performed in younger patients.
- Given these considerations, we strongly feel that the AV complex measurements should be performed in mid-systole.

Final recommendations according to the authors` experience and literature (2)

- In addition, spatial resolution of the external aortic wall using 3D TTE and 3D TOE may be limited.
- Owing superior demarcation of the inner aortic wall especially using 3D TOE we believe that I-I measurements are superior to L-L measurements when using 3D echocardiography.
- Finally, underestimation is unavoidable in 2D TOE for the reasons stated.
- Thus, correct determination of these important diameters can best be achieved by I-I measurements during mid-systole using standardized sectional planes within the 3D data sets by postprocessing.
- This creates a contradiction regarding proposed mid-systolic measurements and current guideline recommendations.
- Current guidelines, however, do not address the specific aspects of AV repair. Furthermore, several studies showed that using I-I convention underestimation was compensated for by measuring aortic diameters mid-end-systole.

Final recommendations according to the authors` experience and literature (3)

- Measurements of cusp morphology and geometry especially CL, eH and gH – obviously have to be performed during diastole when the cusps are stretched by diastolic pressure.
- All findings and parameters for the assessment of the AV root complex which are relevant and mandatory according to our experience, are highlighted in table 1.

TABLE 1 Illustrations of the Anatomic Structures and the Parameters Determined by 2- and 3-Dimensional Echocardiography With Comments on the Advantagesand Disadvantages of the Echocardiographic Techniques

Anatomic Structure/ Parameter

2D Echocardiographic Scheme and 2D Image 3D Echocardiographic Simultaneous Sectional Planes Within the 3D Dataset: En Face Views Comments: Advantages/Disadvantages

GLOBAL CARDIOLOGY SCIENCE & PRACTICE

Review article

A systematic approach to 3D echocardiographic assessment of the aortic root

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Hagendorff et al., Global Cardiology Science and Practice 2018:12 http://dx.doi.org/10.21542/gcsp.2018.12

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Additional information and better diagnostic impact: Quantification of an excentric regurgitation in biscuspid aortic valve ERO - 0.1-0.2 cm²

Figure 10. Caudal-cranial aortic annulus excursion between systole and diastole. Due to LV filling during diastole the distance between apex and AV-junction is more cranial in comparison to end-systole. Changes of aortic annulus position are illustrated by yellow lines during diastole and red lines during systole.

Documentation of the dynamics between the mitral and aortic annulus between systole and diastole

Figure 11. Angle differences between mitral and aortic annulus during systole (red) and diastole (yellow) including a scheme showing the angle difference of the mitral valve during systole and diastole (left below) with parallel adjustment in comparison to normal orientation of the annulus planes (right below).

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Figure 16. The scheme shows an ectasia of the sinuses of Valsalva and a severe aneurysm of the proximal TAA (a). Below native and color-coded 2D transthoracic images are shown during diastole (b) and systole (c). In addition, 3D TTE image of the aortic regurgitation during diastole (d), color M-Mode of the regurgitation (e), en-face views of the aortic annulus during diastole (f) and systole (g) and 3D transthoracic images of long axis views during diastole (h) and systole (i) are shown.

Documentation of different types of aortic regurgitation by 3D-echocardiography

Hagendorff et al., Global Cardiology Science and Practice 2018:12 http://dx.doi.org/10.21542/gcsp. 2018.12

Figure 17. The scheme shows an aneurysm of the sinuses of Valsalva with an ectasia of the proximal ascending aorta and disappearance of the ST-junction and the direct transition of the sinuses into the proximal TAA (a). Further, native and color-coded 2D transthoracic images during diastole (b) and systole (c), 3D transthoracic long axis view during systole (d) and 3D transesophageal en-face views of the AV during diastole (e) and systole (f) are shown.

Documentation of different types of aortic regurgitation by 3D-echocardiography

Hagendorff et al., Global Cardiology Science and Practice 2018:12 http://dx.doi.org/10.21542/gcsp. 2018.12

Figure 18. The scheme shows an isolated aneurysm of the sinuses of Valsalva. On the right side and below 2D and 3D transesophageal images during systole as well as the measurement of the aortic root diameter are shown.

Documentation of different types of aortic regurgitation by 3D-echocardiography

Hagendorff et al., Global Cardiology Science and Practice 2018:12 http://dx.doi.org/10.21542/gcsp. 2018.12

Figure 19. The scheme shows LV dilatation with dilatation of the LVOT and the basal aortic annulus and consecutive severe aortic regurgitation (a). Further, native and color-coded 2D transthoracic images during diastole (b) and systole (c) as well as native (d) and color-coded (e) 2D long axis views of the LVOT and the VA-junction during systole are shown.

Documentation of different types of aortic regurgitation by 3D-echocardiography

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Documentation of different types of aortic regurgitation by 3D-echocardiography

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Figure 20. The scheme shows cusp perforation (a). 2D- and 3D images of long axis views (b, e), short axis views (c, f) and 3D-en-face views of the AV (d, g) show perforation of the RCC labeled by white arrows.

Figure 22. Documentation of vegetations due to endocarditis in native and color-coded 2D transthoracic long axis views (a, b) and 2D transesophageal short axis views (c, d) as well as 3D transesophageal en-face views of the AV from the LVOT (e) and the tubular ascending aorta (f). On the right side aortic dissection (Stanford A) is documented in a triplane subcostal view using contrast echocardiography (g) and in a zoom view of the dissection membrane (h).

Documentation of complications (endocarditis, aortic dissection) by 3D-echocardiography and contrast echocardiography

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Figure 25. In the scheme a prolapse (a) and a flail (b) are shown in long axis views. On the right side native (c) and color-coded 2D transesophageal long axis view is shown documenting the free margin of the RCC in the LVOT during diastole and the regurgitant jet. Below oblique corresponding views are shown. The course of the RCC and the prolapse are labeled by the blue lines in the native 2D transesophageal images. In (g), (h) color coded 2D transesophageal short axis views show the prolaps by the colored contour displayed by the blue dotted line.

Documentation of cusp prolapses by 2D-echocardiography

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Visualization of blood flow turbulences by blood flow speckle tracking

Hagendorff et al., Global Cardiology Science and Practice 2018:12 http://dx.doi.org/10.21542/gcsp .2018.12

Figure 26. 2D transesophageal long axis views within one cardiac cycle showing the blood flow by blood flow speckle tracking. This new technique permits the visualization of the flow vortex.

Summary

- 3D Echocardiography is the best imaging technique for patient selection for surgical AV repair and AV-sparing surgery.
- 2D-TTE and 2D-TOE are inferior to 3D-echocardiography owing to misleading measurements in non-standardized, oblique sectional planes.
- 3D echocardiography should include analysis of AV morphology, aortic root dimensions and AR severity.
- Cusp morphology and commissures and measurements of coaptation length, eH and gH parameters should be described in a systematic approach using mainly 3D TTE and 3D TOE.
- Complete and concise analysis by 3D echocardiography enables correct decision-making and planning of surgical procedures in patients with AR and aortic valve/root abnormalities. It can be assumed that automatic quantification of the aortic root complex will facilitate the dynamic analysis of the aortic root complex in the future.

Siegel der Universität Leipzig

Thank You for Your Attention

Final Summary:

- 1. 3D echocardiography enables a completely new modality of imaging in echocardiography the visualization of surfaces (endocardium and the cusps).
- 2. Biplane and triplane simultaneous sectional planes enables a better and more acurate standardization of imaging with improvement of measurements of anatomical structures.
- 3. Postprocessing in 3D data sets offers the possibility of new views (e.g. en-face view of the coronary ostia, etc.)
- 4. Especially for the decicion making and the planning of the surgical strategy 3D echocardiography can provide important informations.
- 5. The higher the image quality, the better the information.
- 6. Thus, training and expertise in 3D echocardiography is a prerequisite for a better diagnosis.

