

**WALKING POSTER PRESENTATION**

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# An instantaneous ECV with no blood sampling: using native blood T1 for hematocrit is as good as standard ECV

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## Background

The extracellular volume fraction (ECV) by T1 mapping measures the size of the myocardial interstitium. T1 changes in blood and myocardium are used to measure the contrast partition coefficient ( $\lambda$ ), and substituting in the blood volume of distribution (directly measured on a peripheral blood sample as one minus the hematocrit [Hct]) provides the ECV. This methodology is however cumbersome, has significant variability, introduces a delay and is a barrier to wider use of ECV quantification in clinical practice. We have previously observed a strong relationship between ShMOLLI  $T_{1\text{blood}}$  and Hct [Piechnik, JCMR 2013, 15:13] and hypothesise that this could be used to infer the Hct at the time of scan and permit immediate ECV calculation without blood sampling ( $ECV_{\text{No Hct}}$ ).

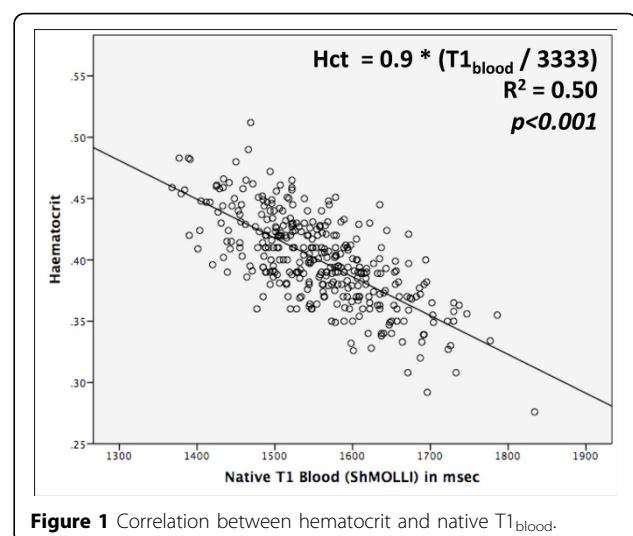
## Methods

350 subjects (age  $61 \pm 15$  years; 47% male; 36 healthy volunteers, 95 severe aortic stenosis, 95 with a history of anthracycline chemotherapy, 46 hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, and 78 cardiac amyloidosis) underwent T1 mapping with ShMOLLI at 1.5T (Siemens Avanto) prior to and at 15 minutes after administration of 0.1mmol/kg of Dotarem. Venous blood for Hct was obtained prior to scanning. The partition coefficient  $\lambda = (\Delta[1/T_{1\text{myo}}] / \Delta[1/T_{1\text{blood}}])$  and  $ECV_{\text{Hct}} = \lambda * [1 - \text{haematocrit}]$  were calculated. Hct was approximated from the linear relationship with native  $T_{1\text{blood}}$  and used to calculate  $ECV_{\text{No Hct}}$ . This

was then compared to the conventional  $ECV_{\text{Hct}}$  partition coefficient and post-contrast  $T_{1\text{myocardium}}$ .

## Results

There was strong correlation between ShMOLLI  $T_{1\text{blood}}$  and Hct across health and disease with a coefficient of explained variation  $R^2=0.50$  ( $p<0.001$ ; Figure 1), i.e. 50% variability of native  $T_{1\text{blood}}$  apportioned to the Hct. The broad array of cardiac pathologies provided a wide range of Hct ( $40.0 \pm 3.6\%$ ; range 28-51%) and native  $T_{1\text{blood}}$  ( $1557 \pm 81\text{ms}$ ; range 1368-1834ms), with similar correlations of Hct versus  $T_{1\text{blood}}$  in each group. The regression equation was:  $\text{Hct} = 0.9 - (T_{1\text{blood}} / 3333)$ .



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**Table 1 Correlations between ECV with/without hematocrit, partition coefficient, post contrast T1 myocardium and clinical parameters.**

	ECV with Hct	ECV no Hct	Partition Coefficient	Post contrast T1 myocardium
Indexed LV mass	0.48*	0.48*	0.48*	-0.33*
Indexed LA area	0.33*	0.34*	0.33*	-0.30*
LVEF, %	-0.53*	-0.55*	-0.54*	0.34*
Indexed Stroke Volume	-0.46*	-0.47*	-0.48*	0.48*
NT-pro-BNP	0.51*	0.52*	0.48*	-0.34*

\* $p < 0.01$

Derived  $ECV_{No\ Hct}$  exhibited excellent correlation with conventional  $ECV_{Hct}$  ( $R^2=0.99$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ) with small  $\sim 2\%$  bias and  $\sim 3\%$  SD of differences on Bland-Altman analysis (95% confidence interval  $-0.7$  to  $+3.9\%$  excluding Amyloid, and  $-2.6$  to  $+8.0\%$  for Amyloid) close to previously reported  $1.4\%$  [Schelbert EB JCMR 2011, 13:16].

$ECV_{No\ Hct}$  correlated equally well with clinical markers of disease severity (LV mass index, LVEF, stroke volume index, left atrial area index and NT-pro-BNP) as  $ECV_{Hct}$  and partition coefficient, and better than post-contrast  $T1_{myocardium}$  (Table 1).

## Conclusions

Native  $T1_{blood}$  correlates well with the laboratory-measured values of hematocrit. Our data demonstrates that straight-forward derivation of hematocrit from  $T1_{blood}$  can be used as an immediate measure of ECV that may pave its application for nearly instantaneous clinical diagnosis. It remains to be confirmed if the high correlation of  $ECV_{No\ Hct}$  with the conventional calculations may cause blood sampling to become an obsolete complication in clinical practice.

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