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## VENDOR SPECIFIC AND INDEPENDENT QUANTITATIVE ANALYSES OF REGIONAL STRAIN BASED ON 4D ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY OF NORMAL SIMULATED CARDIAC MOTION AND INFARCTION AS VALIDATED BY SONOMICROMETRY

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**Background:** Three-dimensional echocardiography derived strain determinations have become increasingly used to assess cardiac function. This study examined the efficacy of a vendor-independent 3D/4D strain analysis program compared to a manufacturer produced analysis package specific to one brand of ultrasound system images and sonomicrometry.

**Methods:** Five adult pig hearts were passively pumped to simulate normal cardiac motion at stroke volumes (SV) ranging from 30-70ml. A 3V-D matrix probe interfaced with a GE Vivid E9 ultrasound system was used for imaging. After baseline imaging, 2ml glutaraldehyde was injected in the mid-anterior (MA) segment of each heart to simulate a myocardial infarction (MI). EchoPac (GE) and TomTec Image Arena were used to quantify circumferential and longitudinal strain (CS, LS) at MA for each SV pre- and post-MI. Strain values were compared to the relative displacement of sonomicrometry crystals.

**Results:** Linear regression analyses showed excellent correlation in both CS and LS between both analysis packages and sonomicrometry with R<sup>2</sup> values ranging from 0.73-0.85. Bland-Altman plots for CS and LS validate that all methods acquired comparable values. It was also determined that both analysis packages were able to detect a decrease in CS and LS post-MI at all SVs in the affected region.

**Conclusions:** Both EchoPac and TomTec Image Arena were shown to be robust utilities with the ability to accurately obtain quantitative regional strain values from 4D echo volumes.

