Author's response to reviews

Title: Age and gender specific normal values of left ventricular mass, volume and function for gradient echo magnetic resonance imaging: a cross sectional study

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

Thank you for accepting our manuscript for publication in principle. We have fulfilled all the Discretionary Revision Comments from Reviewer 3 below. All changes in the manuscript have been highlighted in yellow.

We have now uploaded the final version of our manuscript and hope it is acceptable for publication.

Sincerely,

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DISCREATIONARY REVISION COMMENTS FROM REVIEWER 3

DISCREATIONARY REVISION COMMENT 1: I am concerned about the high interobserver variability of EF estimation (10-12% of EF), also showed by the low correlation between the measures of the two observers (R2 = 0.12). Variability data, as now reported (p.9, lines 18-23), are not easily comprehensible. A table would help. Intraobserver variability data should be given too.

RESPONSE: We have re-performed the interobserver variability with a more experienced second observer, and we have also performed intraobserver variability. The interobserver variability for EF is now smaller and the R2 is higher. All data are presented in a new table, Table 3.
DISCRETIONARY REVISION COMMENT 2: P. 9, line 11: the word “range” seems to be a refuse; I imagine it should be eliminated.

RESPONSE: The manuscript has now been clarified and the phrase “adolescent age range” has been changed to “adolescent group”.