Author's response to reviews

Title: Effect of food intake on left ventricular wall stress

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors-in-Chief

Please find enclosed a revised manuscript titled “Effect of food intake on left ventricular wall stress” which we hope you will consider for publication in the Cardiovascular Ultrasound. We have carefully read the comments by the referees and present a point-by-point response to referee comments and description of changes made. The changes are marked in red in the revised manuscript.

Best regards

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Point –by-point response to referee comments and description of changes made

Referee 1:
1 - Introduction
Succinctly state the problem led to your undertaking the study, including a concise review of only the most relevant literature. Conclude the introduction by stating the purpose of the study and then stating your hypothesis.

Response; we have made an attempt to improve parts of the introduction and we provide a purpose and hypothesis for the study.

2 - I suggest one randomized clinical trial. Insert the control group. Increasing the sample.

Response; we respectfully disagree. The individuals serve as their one control and to do repeated measurements in control subjects only provide the same information as the reliability study (see comments by referee 2). Moreover, it is not possible to randomize food intake in a blinded fashion, the participants will know.

3 - Procedures
Insert reference BP.

Response; this is included in table 2.

4 - Discussion
Be concise. What does your study show? Is your hypothesis affirmed or refuted? Compare and contrast your study with others in the most relevant world literature, Particularly the recent literature

Response; we have made an attempt to improve the discussion. It is, however, difficult to compare our findings with other investigations because the effect of food intake on left ventricular wall stress has to our knowledge previously not been investigated. We have also added 7 additional references to the revised manuscript.
5 - Conclusions
Here you must briefly state your new (or verified) view of the problem you outlined in the Introduction. Take special care to draw your OPINION only from your results. Check your que Firmly Conclusions are supported by your date.

Response; we have made an attempt to improve the conclusion and restrict them only to include our findings.

Referee 2:
General comments:
The authors present the results of an interesting study regarding the effects of food intake on the left ventricular myocardial contractility assessed in simple manner with left ventricular wall stress. I have few remarks that should be considered by the authors in any revision.

Major Compulsory Revision
The authors should include an analysis of reproducibility.

Response; we have added this information in the revised manuscript. Repeated measurement in all subjects indicated acceptable intra-observer variability of 10% for both ESS and cESS.

The authors report an increase of posterior wall thickness after meal whereas is not reported if the septum is also increased after meal. If no, please provide a reason for what.

Response; we choose to report the data that were part of the formula used to calculate left ventricular wall stress (septum wall thickness is not). We have, however, included this data in the revised manuscript (see table 2).

In the discussion a pathophysiologic mechanisms of the reduction of left ventricular wall stress after meal should be discussed. This aspects is completely lacking.

Response; we have made an attempt to improve the discussion. As this is, to our knowledge, the first study investigating and showing that food intake affects left ventricular wall stress, the physiological mechanisms are not known.