

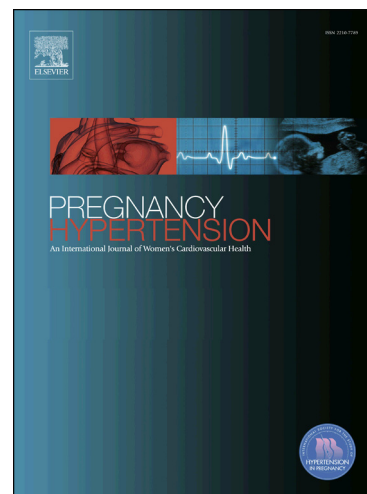
Accepted Manuscript

Interest of Speckle Tracking in the detection of cardiac involvement in pregnant women with hypertensive disorder

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PII: S2210-7789(17)30070-3
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.preghy.2017.10.008>
Reference: PREGHY 348

To appear in: *Pregnancy Hypertension: An International Journal of Women's Cardiovascular Health*



Please cite this article as: Ajmi, H., Abid, D., Milouchi, S., Louati, D., Sghaier, A., Choura, D., Chaaben, K., Abid, L., Kammoun, S., Interest of Speckle Tracking in the detection of cardiac involvement in pregnant women with hypertensive disorder, *Pregnancy Hypertension: An International Journal of Women's Cardiovascular Health* (2017), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.preghy.2017.10.008>

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Abstract

Introduction: Pre-eclampsia is associated with many cardiovascular disorders present even in asymptomatic women. Several echocardiographic parameters are used to identify them. However, these parameters may be normal until late in the course of the disease process. Which justifies using new and more sensitive techniques.

Purpose: We sought to test the hypothesis of subclinical cardiac involvement in such patients, based on speckle tracking, and to check its sensitivity compared to the usual methods.

Methods: We conducted a comparative case-control study, which included thirty pregnant women with hypertensive disorder and thirty healthy ones. The filling pressure of the left ventricle (LV) and strain peaks are measured for all women.

Results: Usual parameters were in favour of diastolic dysfunction in patients. Eighteen patients with high LV filling pressure were recorded, eight of them had at least one complication, which corresponded to a specificity of 77% and a sensitivity of 47%. However, global longitudinal strain (GLS) was severely altered in patients ($p < 0.001$). Moreover, there was a strong correlation of GLS with the usual parameters. Thus, for a threshold value of -18%, GLS had the best sensitivity of 87% and a specificity of 42% to predict complications. There was no significant difference for the radial and circumferential strain.

Conclusion: GLS is more sensitive than other usual echocardiographic parameters in the detection of subclinical cardiac dysfunction in pregnant women with hypertensive disorder. It is strongly correlated with complica-

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