**VALUE OF THE ECG IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF THE DIASTOLIC DYSFUNCTION**

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Objective: To determine the usefulness of the ECG in the diagnosis of diastolic dysfunction.

Background: Whether an ECG is useful in the diagnosis of diastolic dysfunction is not well known. Several studies were done addressing the same question but evaluating one parameter only with a small sample size.

Methods: The electrocardiograms of 478 patients with diastolic dysfunction as determined by echo Doppler using E/A ratio and e’/a’ were reviewed. Using a cutoff of 120 msec, the QRS complex duration was normal in 437 and prolonged in 41 patients and the analysis was not statistically significant with a p=0.06. Using a cutoff of 430 msec, the QTc was normal in 291 and prolonged in 287 patients. The analysis was statistically significant with a p= 0.025. The axis was deviated (left) in 87 and normal in 391 patients with a statistically significant analysis and a p< 0.001.

Conclusion: The ECG parameters can be helpful in the diagnosis of diastolic dysfunction. These parameters include QTc interval duration and left axis deviation.