

UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO PARANÁ

MARCELA WOLF

AVALIAÇÃO DA FUNÇÃO MIOCÁRDICA BIVENTRICULAR POR
ECOCARDIOGRAFIA CONVENCIONAL E SPECKLE TRACKING EM CÃES
SUBMETIDOS À QUIMIOTERAPIA COM DOXORRUBICINA

CURITIBA
2022

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Tese apresentada ao Programa de Pós-graduação em Ciências Veterinárias, setor de Ciências Agrárias, Universidade Federal do Paraná, como requisito parcial à obtenção do título de doutor em Ciências Veterinárias.

Orientador: Prof. Dr. Marlos Gonçalves Sousa

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“If you can dream it, you can do it.”
(WALT DISNEY)

RESUMO

A doxorubicina é um quimioterápico da classe das antraciclinas amplamente utilizado no tratamento de diversas neoplasias em seres humanos e cães. A cardiotoxicidade dose-dependente, afetando especialmente a função miocárdica ventricular, é um dos principais efeitos colaterais da sua utilização. A detecção precoce da toxicidade é importante tendo em vista a influência na tomada de decisões, alterações no protocolo quimioterápico e no prognóstico dos pacientes humanos oncológicos. A ecocardiografia é um método acessível e não invasivo que permite o acompanhamento da função miocárdica com eficácia. As técnicas de ecocardiografia tecidual avançada por *Speckle tracking* possibilitam detecção precoce da disfunção miocárdica e são recomendadas no acompanhamento seriado do paciente humano cardio-oncológico. O objetivo de elaboração dessa tese de doutorado, foi estudar a utilização da ecocardiografia convencional e por *Speckle tracking* na avaliação na função miocárdica em cães com câncer recebendo doxorubicina em diferentes protocolos. Para isso, essa tese foi dividida em introdução e três capítulos. Na introdução foi realizada uma abordagem geral do tema. No primeiro capítulo, foi descrita uma investigação da função biventricular em cães com linfoma multicêntrico antes do início do protocolo quimioterápico, com objetivo de avaliar a influência e repercussão da neoplasia sobre o sistema cardiovascular. Os resultados mostram que alguns parâmetros, como *strain* circunferencial global, *strain* do ventrículo direito e o TMAD do ventrículo direito foram menores nos cães com linfoma quando comparados ao grupo controle, evidenciando alteração na função miocárdica, especialmente do ventrículo direito, nesses pacientes. O segundo e o terceiro capítulo descrevem um estudo prospectivo e longitudinal de 25 cães com diferentes neoplasias que receberam quimioterapia com doxorubicina como agente único ou associada a outros quimioterápicos. Esses cães foram avaliados com exame clínico, ecocardiografia, eletrocardiografia e aferição de pressão arterial seriadamente em intervalos de 7 dias, 21 dias, 60 dias, 120 dias e 180 dias após a primeira dose da doxorubicina. No segundo capítulo está descrito o estudo multidirecional da função do ventrículo esquerdo, que mostrou um prejuízo da função das fibras longitudinais por uma redução no MAPSE e do TMAD global na avaliação de 180 dias. Para finalizar, no terceiro capítulo consta a análise funcional e morfométrica do ventrículo direito desses cães, o qual mostrou uma redução progressiva nos parâmetros de função sistólica identificada por parâmetros de ecocardiografia convencional e *Speckle tracking*, como TAPSE, onda S', *strain* e TMAD. Essa tese trouxe informações importantes no âmbito da cardiologia veterinária e abriu portas para novos estudos e investigações nesse tema.

Palavras-chave: Speckle tracking. Oncologia. Cardiotoxicidade. Ecocardiografia. Strain

ABSTRACT

Doxorubicin is a chemotherapeutic drug of the anthracycline class widely used in the treatment of various neoplasms in humans and dogs. Dose-dependent cardiotoxicity, especially affecting ventricular myocardial function, is one of the main side effects of its use. Early detection of toxicity is important due to its influence on decision making, changes in the chemotherapy protocol and the prognostic impact of human cancer patients. Echocardiography is an accessible and non-invasive method that allows the monitoring of myocardial function effectively. Speckle tracking advanced tissue echocardiography techniques allow early detection of myocardial dysfunction and are recommended in the serial follow-up of human cardio-oncological patients. The objective of this thesis was to study the myocardial function of dogs with cancer receiving doxorubicin in different protocols by conventional echocardiography and by Speckle tracking echocardiography. For this, this thesis was divided into an introduction and three chapters. The introduction provided a general approach to this topic. In the first chapter, an investigation of biventricular function in dogs with multicentric lymphoma prior to chemotherapy was described, with the objective of evaluating the influence and repercussion of the neoplasm on the cardiovascular system. The results show that some parameters, such as global circumferential strain, right ventricular strain and right ventricular TMAD were lower in dogs with lymphoma when compared to the control group, evidencing changes in myocardial function, especially of the right ventricle, in these patients. The second and third chapters describe a prospective and longitudinal study of 25 dogs with different neoplasms that received chemotherapy with doxorubicin as a single agent or associated with other chemotherapy drugs. These dogs were evaluated with clinical examination, echocardiography, electrocardiography and blood pressure measurements serially at intervals of 7 days, 21 days, 60 days, 120 days and 180 days after the first dose of doxorubicin. The second chapter is composed of the multidirectional study of left ventricular function, which showed an impairment of longitudinal fiber function by a reduction in MAPSE and global TMAD in the 180-day evaluation. Finally, the third chapter contains the functional and morphometric analysis of the right ventricle of these dogs, which showed a progressive reduction in systolic function parameters identified by conventional echocardiography and Speckle tracking parameters, such as TAPSE, S' wave, strain and TMAD. This thesis brought important information in the field of veterinary cardio-oncology and opened doors for new studies and investigations on this topic.

Keywords: Speckle tracking. Oncology. Cardiotoxicity. Echocardiography. Strain

LISTA DE ABREVIATURAS

ACVIM	- American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine
AP4	- Apical four-chamber
AP2	- Apical two-chamber
AP3	- Apical three-chamber
BSA	- Body surface area
BW	- Body weight
CSt	- Circumferential strain
CD	- Cumulative dose
CHOP	- Doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, vincristine and prednisone
DoxoCarbo	- Doxorubicin and carboplatin
EF	- Ejection fraction
FAC	- Fractional area change
FS	- Fractional shortening
GCS	- Global circumferential strain
GLS	- Global longitudinal strain
HF	- Heart failure
IVRT	- Isovolumic relaxation time
LSt	- Longitudinal strain
LV	- Left ventricular
LVIDd _n	- Normalized left ventricular internal dimension at end-diastole
LVIDs _n	- Normalized left ventricular internal dimension at end-systole
MAPSEi	- Mitral annular plane systolic excursion indexed to the body surface area

ROI	- Region of interest
RV	- Right ventricular
S'	- Peak velocity of systolic mitral annular motion as determined by pulsed wave Doppler
SBP	- Systolic blood pressure
TAPSEi	- Tricuspid annular plane systolic excursion indexed to the body surface area
TMAD	- Tissue motion annular displacement

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1 INTRODUCTION

Doxorubicin is an anthracycline widely used in oncology because it is a potent chemotherapeutic with good results in several neoplasms in dogs [1]. On the other hand, cardiotoxicity is one of the main side effects of the use of this drug, which can directly interfere with ventricular myocardial function, and also predispose to the development of arrhythmias, valve diseases, pericardiopathies, changes in systemic blood pressure and congestive heart failure [2,3,4,5].

Doxorubicin cardiotoxicity can occur in an acute form, recognized in a short time after its administration, which in these cases shows to be less dose-dependent, potentially reversible and results mainly in hypotension and arrhythmias [1,3,6], or in the late form, with the development of ventricular dysfunction, in this case it is mostly irreversible and directly related to the cumulative dose (dose-dependent) in dogs and humans [2,4,6,7].

The etiology of doxorubicin cardiotoxicity is still not fully understood. Several mechanisms seem to be involved, such as the release of free radicals, the blocking of specific cellular pathways [9], the interference with cellular DNA by the inhibition of the topoisomerase 2 β enzyme, the increase in oxidative stress [10] and increased expression of death receptors on the membrane of cardiomyocytes [11].

Doxorubicin cardiotoxicity has long been recognized in dogs [12]. Studies show an incidence of 4% to 84% in this species [5,7,13], with a cumulative dose ranging from 90 to 265 mg/kg² [5,7,13,14].

The cardiotoxicity assessment method is directly related to its incidence. Some methods, such as the fractional shortening obtained by conventional echocardiography, are later than biomarkers such as troponin I [7,15]. On the other

hand, genetic evaluation with the expression of microRNAs is even earlier than troponin I [16]. Although gold standard techniques such as MRI and histopathological evaluation provide reliable and accurate information about myocardial injury [2,17], they are less applicable in clinical routine for patient follow-up. On the other hand, echocardiography is a safe, non-invasive, non-ionizing, widely accessible method that effectively allows the assessment of myocardial function in cardio oncological patients [2,18].

Speckle tracking echocardiography techniques allow early detection of myocardium dysfunction when compared to conventional echocardiography in humans and rats receiving doxorubicin [2,19,20]. Global longitudinal strain (GLS) is a technique recommended in the serial follow-up of humans undergoing chemotherapy which, in addition to allowing the detection of early dysfunction [2,8,18], provides prognostic information in patients with preserved ejection fraction [21]. Tissue motion annular displacement (TMAD) is also a speckle tracking-based technique that has been shown to early detect left ventricular and right ventricular dysfunction in childhood cancer survivors [22]. However, there are no studies with these techniques in dogs undergoing chemotherapy.

Left ventricular function is one of the main parameters evaluated in the echocardiography of these patients and the dysfunction of this chamber may be present in the clinical form, resulting in left congestive heart failure or in the subclinical form [5,7]. However, previous studies in people show that right ventricular function is also affected and may occur before changes in the left ventricle [23], but there is no evidence to date regarding the specific evaluation of the right ventricular chamber of dogs undergoing chemotherapy.

Cardiovascular complications secondary to the use of anthracyclines are the

main causes of death in cancer survivors, therefore, early approaches are beneficial for protocol change and management of therapeutic decisions that may influence the patient's prognosis [2].

Finally, this thesis aimed to prospectively and longitudinally evaluate myocardial function and structural assessment of the left and right ventricles with conventional and Speckle tracking echocardiography, in dogs with different types of neoplasia, undergoing chemotherapy with doxorubicin as a single agent or in association with other chemotherapeutic agents determined by the oncology department.

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2 Assessment of left and right ventricular systolic function in dogs with multicentric lymphoma

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Key words: canine, cardio-oncology, echocardiography, oncology, strain, speckle tracking.

2.1 Abstract

Objective: Myocardial dysfunction in cardio-oncology is generally thought to be related to the cardiotoxicity of chemotherapy treatment. However, it is known that some tumors have direct effects on myocardial function. These effects have been studied in man, but there are no published reports of the effects in dogs. Novel advanced echocardiographic techniques may allow early detection of myocardial dysfunction when compared to conventional echocardiographic techniques. This study aims to assess myocardial systolic function in dogs with multicentric lymphoma prior to chemotherapy protocol.

Animals: Fifteen dogs with multicentric lymphoma and nineteen healthy dogs.

Methods: Prospective cross-sectional observational study. Dogs with multicentric lymphoma and healthy control dogs underwent physical examination, electrocardiography, systolic blood pressure measurement and standard and speckle tracking echocardiography to assess biventricular systolic function.

Results: There were no differences between groups in terms of ejection fraction, shortening fraction, left ventricular systolic and diastolic diameter, tricuspid annular plane systolic excursion, mitral annular plane systolic excursion and fractional area change of the right ventricle. However, there was a reduction in the values of Global Circumferential Strain (GCS) ($p=0.0003$), right ventricle (RV) Strain ($p=0.01$) and RV tissue motion annular displacement ($p<0.05$) in the dogs with lymphoma when compared to the control group.

Conclusions: Speckle tracking techniques appear to demonstrate early systolic dysfunction, primarily affecting the right ventricle, in dogs with lymphoma prior to chemotherapy treatment.

Abbreviation list

AP2 - Apical 2-chamber
AP3 - Apical 3-chamber
AP4 - Apical 4-chamber
BSA - Body surface area
CSt - Circumferential strain
EF - Ejection fraction
FAC - Fractional area change
FS - Fractional shortening
GCS - Global circumferential strain
GLS - Global longitudinal strain
IVRT - Isovolumetric relaxation time
LA:Ao - Left atrium-to-aorta ratio
LSt - Longitudinal Strain
LVID_d - Left ventricular internal dimension at end-diastole
LVID_s - Left ventricular internal dimension at end-systole
MAPSE - Mitral annular plane systolic excursion
ROC - Receiver operating characteristic curves
RV - Right ventricle
SBP - Systolic blood pressure
TAPSE - Tricuspid annular plane systolic excursion
TMAD - Tissue motion annular displacement
TNFa - Tumor necrosis factor alpha

2.2 Introduction

Cancer and heart diseases represent the main public health issues and cause of death in people worldwide [1]. Cardiac changes in cancer patients are generally related to the cardiotoxicity of chemotherapy treatment [2]. However, there is a more complex interrelation between cancer and heart function. Studies have shown that tumors can release several pro-inflammatory cytokines, resulting in a chronic inflammatory state with systemic effects [3], which in experimental studies have been shown to result in the development of cachexia and cardiac dysfunction [4,5]. In addition, systemic changes secondary to the presence of heart failure may favor the development of cancer [6].

Lymphoma is one of the main cancers affecting dogs. This disease can present in different stages, with or without cardiac involvement [7]. In addition to the intrinsic effects on the cardiovascular system due to mediators produced by tumors [6], multicentric lymphoma may result in myocardial infiltration which includes extensive masses and multiple microscopic infiltrative lesions [8].

The echocardiogram is an ideal non-invasive exam for the assessment of cardiac morphofunctionality, but it has some limitations for the detection of cardiac tumors [9]. However, other imaging techniques such as computed tomography are more accurate for determine the morphology, location and extent of cardiac tumors, including microscopic cardiac involvement [10]. Advanced echocardiography techniques, such as the GLS [11] and TMAD [12], allow the early detection of myocardial dysfunction due to cardiotoxicity in human patients with cancer.

In veterinary medicine, some studies have evaluated myocardial function in dogs treated with doxorubicin [13,14]. However, to our knowledge, none of these studies evaluated cardiac changes in pre-chemotherapy cancer patients. There are few studies that have looked at the interrelation of cardiovascular function in dogs with cancer. Little is known about the

intrinsic cardiovascular involvement of tumors before the start of chemotherapy. In this study we assessed the myocardial systolic function of left and right ventricles in dogs with multicentric lymphoma prior to chemotherapy.

2.3 Methods

Animals

Dogs were recruited for this prospective, cross-sectional, observational study from patients admitted for clinical evaluation at a veterinary teaching facility and at a private veterinary hospital between February 2019 and March 2020. All procedures were approved by the Institutional Animal Use Committee and complied with the National Institutes of Health Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. Owners gave formal consent prior to the animal being enrolled on the study.

For study inclusion all dogs had a diagnosis of multicentric lymphoma by a fine needle aspirate and/or histopathological analysis and underwent an echocardiographic examination before any therapy was instituted. Inclusion criteria included that patients with lymphoma did not have any signs of cardiac involvement, such as pericardial effusion or nodules observed on echocardiography. In addition to echocardiography, all dogs underwent a complete physical examination, SBP assessment and electrocardiography. Systolic blood pressure was obtained non-invasively (vascular *Doppler*) and the recorded result was the mean of at least five measurements performed by trained observer (MW) as previously recommended [15]. A computer-based electrocardiogram (TEB ECG PC) was recorded for at least three minutes immediately prior to echocardiography in all animals to document cardiac rhythm and heart rate.

Exclusion criteria for this study included any cardiac rhythm of non-sinus origin; congenital cardiovascular disease; cardiac tumors and pericardial effusion.

Finally, dogs with no history of cardiac or oncological disease were recruited as

controls. Those animals underwent a detailed physical examination prior to inclusion in the study, as well as a complete echocardiogram, electrocardiogram, and SBP measurement to rule out any conditions that could preclude their use as controls.

Conventional echocardiography

Echocardiography was performed with Philips Affiniti 50 ultrasound system equipped with 2-4, 3-8 and 4-12 MHz phased-array transducers with continuous electrocardiogram monitoring. A single experienced operator (MW) was responsible for image acquisition and measurements. During the examination unsedated dogs were positioned in left and right lateral recumbency, in accordance with the recommendations of the Echocardiography Committee of the Specialty of Cardiology of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine [16].

Using M-mode and short axis images obtained from the right parasternal window, measurements were made of: LVID_d and LVID_s, end-diastolic volume, end-systolic volume, FS and EF, the latter being calculated by the Teichholz formula. Normalized dimensions of the left ventricle were calculated according to the previously reported method [17]. The LA:Ao was calculated from two-dimensional short axis images obtained in early diastole.

Apical 4-chamber and AP2 views were acquired for the EF by Simpson's biplane method. The end diastolic and systolic volume obtained were also recorded. Apical 4-chamber images were also used to obtain the MAPSE with M-mode in lateral and septal regions of the mitral annulus. Mitral annular plane systolic excursion and TAPSE were indexed by BSA. The mitral early (E) and late (A) diastolic peak velocities were obtained in the transmitral flow in the AP4 chamber, while apical 5-chamber images were used for obtaining the IVRT. From these parameters the E:A and the E:IVRT ratios were calculated. Left ventricular outflow velocity was recorded to obtain the aortic valve closure time (R to

AVC), which corresponded to the time (in milliseconds) from the beginning of the QRS complex to the end of the aortic flow spectral envelope. That time was used to determine the peak systolic in speckle tracking analyses.

A tissue Doppler sample gate was placed on the septal and parietal region of the mitral annulus to obtain systolic (S'), early diastolic (E') and late diastolic (A') velocities, which were also used to calculate $E':A'$ ratio.

Finally, the AP4 view optimized for the right ventricle (RV) was performed to obtain functional evaluations of the RV. Tricuspid annular plane systolic excursion was obtained with M-mode in the free wall of the RV, and the S' , E' and A' wave were obtained with pulsed-wave TDI. The pulsed-Doppler was used to obtain E_t (early) and A_t (late) to assess RV diastolic function. Fractional area change (FAC) was performed by tracing the RV endocardial border at end-diastole and at end-systole, as previously described [18].

Speckle tracking echocardiography

Longitudinal Strain

At least five cardiac cycles of apical 4- (AP4), 2- (AP2), 3- (AP3) chamber views and apical 4 chamber view optimized to the RV were recorded for subsequent off-line evaluations of speckle tracking echocardiography.

The equipment software (QLAB-automatic cardiac motion quantification) automatically detected the left ventricular myocardium to be tracked and divided the ventricle into seven segments. Manual corrections were performed where necessary. For each individual image, strain was considered as the average deformation of those seven segments. Longitudinal strain was determined as a percentage of left ventricular myocardial deformation in a heartbeat and the GLS was calculated as the average of LSt obtained in AP4, AP2 and AP3 images.

The RV Strain was obtained from three defined regions of interest (ROIs): RV septal annulus, RV lateral annulus and RV apex. Subsequently, the software automatically tracked each myocardial segment. However, only the three segments tracked on the free wall of the right ventricle were selected: basal, middle and apical. The RV Strain corresponds to the mean of deformation of these 3 segments in one cardiac cycle.

Circumferential Strain

At least five cardiac cycles were recorded on the short axis in the right parasternal window of the apical, middle (papillary plane) and mitral plane for subsequent off-line evaluations of CSt. In the same way, strain was performed in each plane and GCS was calculated as the average of CSt obtained in apical, middle and mitral plane images.

Tissue Motion Annular Displacement

Tissue motion annular displacement was calculated automatically by the software using both AP4, AP2 and AP4 optimized to the RV images. For this purpose, three ROIs were determined by the operator. To perform TMAD of the left ventricle, two of these were in the mitral annulus while the third was the epicardial region of the left ventricular apex. The RV TMAD was performed in the optimized AP4 view and three ROIs were selected: lateral and septal annulus of the tricuspid valve and the third in the epicardial region of the RV apex. Once ROIs were chosen, the software tracked the displacement of the first and second ROI (in mm) towards the third ROI. A midpoint between the two mitral ROIs was automatically created and its displacement towards the apex documented in mm and as a percentage of the total length of the ventricle.

Global TMAD was calculated in five different ways: global $TMAD_{mm}$ is the average displacement (in mm) of the midpoint of the mitral annulus obtained in AP4 and AP2 images

towards the apex for the LV and for the RV is the absolute displacement in mm of the midpoint in the AP4 optimized for the RV; global TMAD% is the mean fractional displacement (in relation to the total LV length) of the midpoint towards the LV apex in the AP4 and AP2 chamber images and for the RV is a percentage value of the midpoint movement in relation to the total RV length; global TMAD_{mm/kg} is the global TMAD_{mm} indexed to the body weight in kilograms; global TMAD_{mm/ $\sqrt[3]{BW}$} is the global TMAD_{mm} indexed to cubic root of body weight; and the global TMAD_{mm/m²} is global TMAD_{mm} indexed to BSA, as reported in a previous study [25].

2.4 Statistical Analysis

Statistical analyses were performed using Graphpad prism 8.0 software. Normality of the data was evaluated by the Shapiro-Wilk test. For parameters with normal distribution, differences between groups were evaluated with T test. For non-normally distributed data differences between groups were assessed using Mann Whitney (non-parametric approach). Pearson and Spearman correlation tests were used to assess the correlation of echocardiographic variables with weight, age, heart rate and blood pressure. Fisher's test was used to determine if there was a difference between males and females between groups. Receiver operating characteristic curves were used to determine sensitivity and specificity of several echocardiographic variables that differed the two groups.

2.5 Results

A total of 34 dogs were enrolled in this study, of which 19 were healthy dogs composing the control group and 15 were diagnosed with multicentric lymphoma.

Control group was composed of Crossbreed (n=4), Yorkshire terrier (n=4), Lhasa Apso (n=3), German Spitz (n=2), French bulldog, Labrador Retriever, Maltese, Pinscher,

Shitzu and Whippet (n=1 each). The lymphoma group was composed of Crossbreed (n=5), Golden Retriever (n=3) Fox Terrier, Rottweiler, Schnauzer, Lhasa Apso, German Shepherd, Swiss Shepherd and English Bulldog (n=1 each). The distribution of age, body weight and basic echocardiographic data of each group are shown in table 1. There were no differences in sex between the two groups (P=0.07). Four dogs in the lymphoma group had mitral valve disease with mild mitral regurgitation without cardiac remodeling (ACVIM stage B1) and one of them also had tricuspid valve disease associated with mild insufficiency without cardiac remodeling.

Nine dogs had stage IV lymphoma, one dog had medullary involvement (stage V) and five dogs had stage III lymphoma. The dogs in the lymphoma group were older (P=0.01) and heavier (P=0.01) compared to the control group (table 1).

Sinus arrhythmia was the predominant cardiac rhythm in the lymphoma group (n= 14/15) and in the control group (n= 16/19). One dog in the lymphoma group and two dogs in the control group had sinus rhythm, while one dog in the control group had sinus tachycardia. Two dogs in lymphoma group had isolated premature ventricular complexes.

There were no differences in shortening fraction (P=0.33) and left ventricular ejection fraction (P=0.54). However, GCS (P=0.03) and global TMAD_{mm/kg} (P=0.02) was lower in the lymphoma group than the control group (table 2).

There was no difference between groups for the variables MAPSEi parietal (P=0.3), MAPSEi septal (P=0.3), as well as the GLS (P=0.2), LSt AP4 (P=0.8), LSt AP3 (P=0.17), LSt AP2 (P=0.06) and the global TMAD. Global TMAD_{mm/kg} was lower in lymphoma patients (P=0.02) (table 1 and table 2).

Regarding the systolic function of the right ventricle, no differences were observed in the variables TAPSEi (P=0.46) and FAC (P=0.5) obtained by conventional echocardiography. However, RV Strain and RV TMAD were lower in the group with lymphoma (table 2 and

figure 1).

Global Longitudinal Strain ($P < 0.0001$; $R = -0.65$), GCS ($P = 0.02$; $R = -0.38$) and RV Strain ($P = 0.0002$; $R = 0.6$) were affected by body weight, as was biplane EF Simpson ($P = 0.0004$; $R = -0.574$). Right ventricular $TMAD_{mm}$ ($P = 0.0011$; $R = 0.5366$), RV $TMAD_{mm/kg}$ ($P < 0.0001$; $R = -0.9$), RV $TMAD_{mm/m^2}$ ($P < 0.0001$; $R = -0.8$) and RV $TMAD_{mm/\sqrt[3]{BW}}$ ($P = 0.01$; $R = -0.4$) were also correlated with body weight, as were the global $TMAD_{mm}$ ($P < 0.0001$; $R = 0.68$), global $TMAD_{mm/kg}$ ($P < 0.0001$; $R = -0.93$) and global $TMAD_{mm/m^2}$ ($P < 0.0001$; $R = -0.82$).

Age showed a negative correlation with the E/A ratio ($P = 0.001$; $R = -0.5$). Systemic blood pressure influenced the values of lateral MAPSEi ($P = 0.004$; $R = 0.48$), septal MAPSEi ($P = 0.04$; $R = 0.34$), FS ($P = 0.04$; $R = 0.3$) and FE ($P = 0.03$; $R = 0.35$).

Several echocardiographic variables showed good ($AUC > 0.7$) sensitivity and specificity to differentiate patients with lymphoma from the control group (table 3). With a cut-off of $< 22.85\%$, the RV Strain had 80% sensitivity and 73.6% specificity to differentiate the two groups.

2.6 Discussion

In this study, some parameters of assessment of myocardial function, especially RV systolic function, assessed by advanced echocardiography techniques were reduced in patients with lymphoma (table 1 and table 2). The main mechanism of myocardial dysfunction in cancer patients is thought to be related to the cardiotoxicity of chemotherapeutic drugs, especially anthracyclines. Although several factors are involved in the cardiotoxicity of these drugs the main problems are the release of free radicals and the blocking of specific cell pathways [2]. However, in this study we show that some myocardial changes can occur before chemotherapy in dogs with lymphoma.

In patients with lymphoma the myocardium can also be compromised by myocardial

infiltration [8,19] and the production of mediators by the tumor that act directly on the heart [6]. Although dogs with lymphoma in this study did not show structural changes on echocardiography, it is possible that microscopic myocardial infiltration was present, as described in human patients [8]. In a study of 196 people with lymphoma, 48 had cardiac involvement, and of these, disease was detected in 21 only on microscopic evaluation [20]. Studies in dogs show that lymphoma is one of the main metastatic tumors that affects the heart [19]. Therefore, the lack of histopathological analysis is a limitation of this study.

The study of cardiovascular impairment secondary to cancer is limited, not least because cancer patients often receive chemotherapy treatment that can compromise myocardial function and thus generate a confounding bias. Experimental studies have shown that cancer cells and the components of the tumor microenvironment produce mediators such as chemokines, hormones, metabolites and growth factors. These locally produced products have systemic effects and thus can generate cardiac dysfunction in cancer patients [6]. Tumor necrosis factor alpha is a cytokine released by tumors that causes direct myocardial dysfunction [21,22]. Studies in rats have shown that inhibition of TNF α with antibodies reduces myocardial involvement [23]. Interleukins 1 β are also released by cancer cells and can also compromise cardiovascular functionality in several ways, such as reducing the response to the type L calcium channel [24].

Another important factor in this study is that dogs in the lymphoma group were heavier than dogs in the control group. Myocardial function indices, such as GLS and TMAD of the left and right ventricles, have been shown to have a negative correlation with body weight in healthy dogs [18,25,26]. However, there were no differences in the other parameters for assessment of myocardial function such as ejection fraction, shortening fraction, FAC, MAPSE and TAPSE between the two groups. One explanation for the changes recognized using advanced echocardiography techniques that were not seen using conventional

ultrasound may be a change in fibrotic index. People with cancer show intense fibrotic remodeling [27] and strain measurement, which is useful for the early detection of myocardial dysfunction, has been shown to have a negative correlation with the level of tissue fibrosis [28]. Heavier dogs tend to have lower systolic function indices. However, in this study the change in systolic function was only detected on the advanced echocardiographic techniques. This suggests that although the dogs with lymphoma in this study were heavier, the advanced techniques, especially measurement of RV systolic function and circumferential LV function, may genuinely have detected early signs of reduced systolic function since there were no differences between groups with regard to the conventional techniques (table 2).

The systolic function of the right ventricle is primarily the result of the contraction of the longitudinal fibers [29]. GLS is a technique that assesses the function of longitudinal fibers and allows the detection of early left [30] and right [31] myocardial dysfunction in human patients undergoing chemotherapy. This technique seems to be a sensitive indicator of subclinical dysfunctions in situations where there are associated metabolic disorders, in addition to allowing and assisting the cardio-oncology relationship in the early detection of individuals in the "gray zone" and thus better stratifying cardiovascular risk [2]. RV TMAD values were associated with a worse prognosis in children with leukemia and lymphoma undergoing chemotherapy [32]. TMAD is also a technique based on Speckle tracking with good repeatability for the assessment of longitudinal function of the left [25] and right [26] ventricles in dogs and which has already shown good results in detection of dysfunction myocardial in children with cancer undergoing doxorubicin chemotherapy, with good correlation with gold standard methods such as magnetic resonance imaging [12,33].

Dogs with lymphoma showed lower circumferential deformation of the apical region of the left ventricle (table 2). Some diseases result in alterations in the pattern of regional ventricular deformation, for example, amyloidosis in man produced a specific pattern called

“apical sparing”, where there is a greater impairment of the basal regions of the left ventricle [34]. Future studies with segmental myocardial evaluation and with a larger number of animals with lymphoma are necessary to investigate the possibility of specific region change in animals.

Although the slower speed of the S' wave is related to reduced systolic ventricular function, in this study the S' wave was greater in patients with lymphoma (table 1). However, this may be explained by the fact that there is a positive correlation of the S' wave with body weight for both the left ($P=0.004$; $R=0.47$) and right ($P=0.0011$; $R=0.53$) ventricles, and the dogs with lymphoma were heavier than the controls [18].

In this study, two dogs in the lymphoma group had isolated premature ventricular complexes on the conventional electrocardiogram. Electrical changes can be seen in 66% of human patients with lymphoma, including changes in the ST segment and sinus tachycardia [8], and bradycardia and several arrhythmias have been reported in dogs with lymphoma [19].

This study has a number of limitations. The most important of these is the lack of histopathological evaluation of neoplastic infiltration in the heart. The weight difference between the two groups is another relevant factor. Additionally, ancillary examinations to rule out concurrent systemic diseases, i.e. infectious diseases or hormonal diseases, which might affect systolic function, were not performed unless clinically indicated. Finally, dogs with different stages of multicentric lymphoma were recruited and the number of dogs included is too small to extrapolate these results to all circumstances.

2.7 Conclusions

Dogs with multicentric lymphoma had lower speckle tracking variables of systolic function, especially in the right ventricle, when compared to the control group. Future studies with a larger number of dogs with lymphoma and other tumors are needed to better

understand cardiovascular changes in dogs with cancer.

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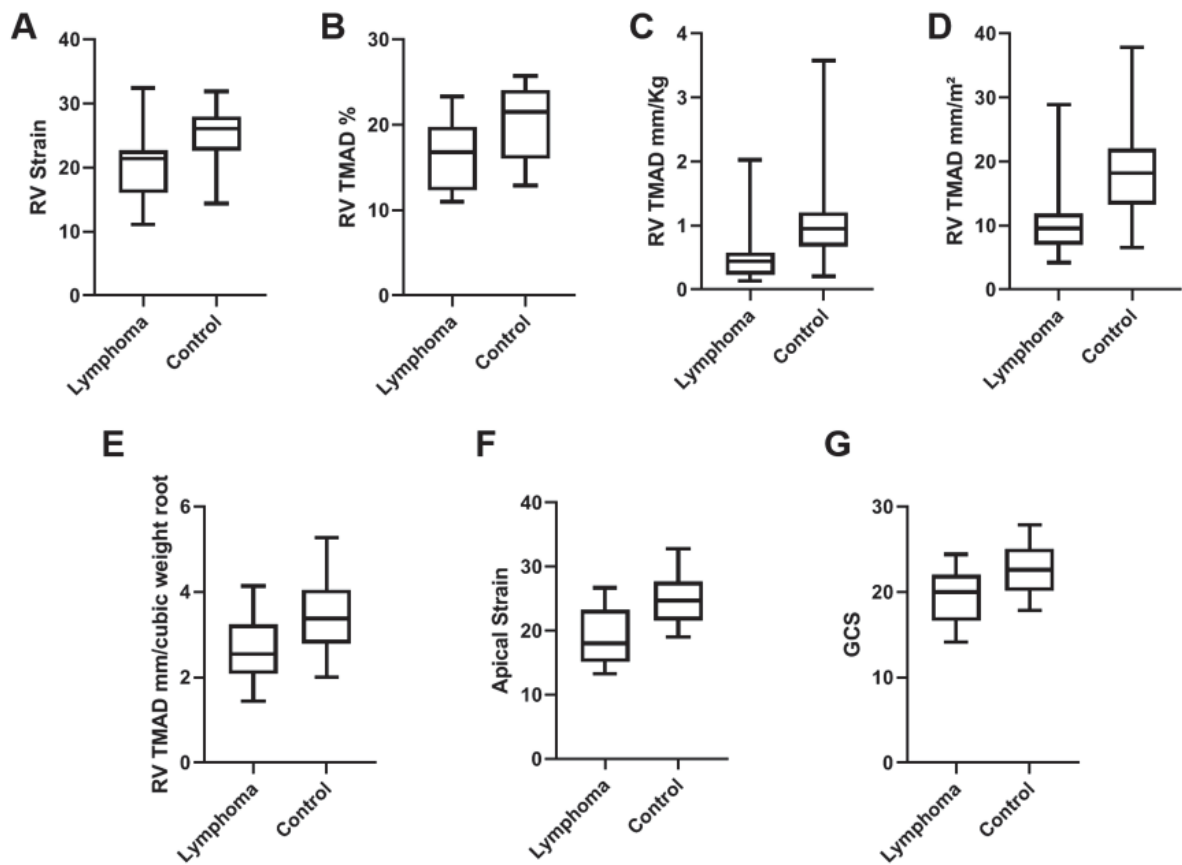


Fig. 1. Box-plots of (A) RV Strain, (B) RV TMAD%, (C) RV TMAD_{mm/kg}, (D) RV TMAD_{mm/m²}, (E) RV TMAD_{mm/³BW} (F) Strain C Apical and (G) GCS global in healthy dogs (controls) and in dogs with multicentric lymphoma.

Table 1. Comparison of conventional echocardiographic data, age, body weight, heart rate and systolic blood pressure between healthy dogs (control group) and dogs with multicentric lymphoma.

(n)	Lymphoma	Control
	19	15
Age (months)	84 (48-180) ^a	42 (23-144) ^b
Age (years)	7 (4-15) ^a	3.5 (1-12) ^b
SBP (mmHg)	130 (100-160) ^a	123 (100-180) ^a
HR (bpm)	116.7 (\pm 19.61) ^a	114.7 (\pm 28.87) ^a
Body Weight (Kg)	19 (2.9-41) ^a	7.3 (1.2-33) ^b
E _{mitral} (cm/s)	79.6 (42.5-129) ^a	65.8 (48-98.5) ^b
A _{mitral} (cm/s)	84.83 (\pm 22.17) ^a	63.57 (\pm 20.08) ^b
E/A	0.91 (0.64-1.6) ^a	1.1 (0.6-1.9) ^a
IVRT (ms)	63.33 (\pm 11.32) ^a	65.26 (\pm 10.84) ^a
LVIDD _n	1.45 (\pm 0.14) ^a	1.42 (\pm 0.17) ^a
LVIDS _n	0.79 (\pm 0.11) ^a	0.82 (\pm 0.14) ^a
SF	42.15 (\pm 6.42) ^a	39.99 (\pm 6.42) ^a
EF	73.81 (\pm 7.5) ^a	72.16 (\pm 7.9) ^a
LA/Ao	1.3 (1-2) ^a	1.2 (1-1.4) ^a
S' _{septal} (cm/s)	11.67 (\pm 1.94) ^a	9.32 (\pm 2.48) ^b
E' _{septal} (cm/s)	8.65 (5.67-15.3) ^a	6.48 (5.09-11.7) ^b
A' _{septal} (cm/s)	9.84 (\pm 2.92) ^a	7.76 (\pm 2.24) ^b
S' _{lateral} (cm/s)	13.4 (8.41-20.1) ^a	9.95 (6.37-22.8) ^b
E' _{lateral} (cm/s)	10.8 (6.07-16.1) ^a	8.95 (4.38-19.6) ^a
A' _{lateral} (cm/s)	10.7 (7.05-16.8) ^a	8.36 (5.37-16.7) ^b
MAPSE _{index lateral} (mm)	1.73 (\pm 0.52) ^a	1.91 (\pm 0.66) ^a
MAPSE _{index septal} (mm)	1.36 (1.02-3.24) ^a	1.67 (0.98-3.79) ^a
EF Simpson AP4	74.93 (\pm 6.29) ^a	75.93 (\pm 2.73) ^a
EF Simpson AP2	71.91 (\pm 8.95) ^a	74.13 (\pm 7.12) ^a
EF Biplane Simpson	72.7 (55.6-83.7) ^a	74.7 (68.7-82.6) ^a
TAPSE _{index}	2.24 (1.27-6.17) ^a	2.65 (1.87-5.95) ^a
E _{tricuspid} (cm/s)	66.9 (42-119) ^a	58 (34.9-95.7) ^a
A _{tricuspid} (cm/s)	60.6 (34.6-140) ^a	49.5 (33.5-103) ^a
E/A	1.16 (\pm 0.38) ^a	1.16 (\pm 0.29) ^a
RV S' (cm/s)	17.6 (\pm 3.74) ^a	11.91 (\pm 2.93) ^b
RV E' (cm/s)	13.3 (6.86-16.5) ^a	7.9 (5.25-13.8) ^b
RV A' (cm/s)	15.49 (\pm 3.06) ^a	9.15 (\pm 2.17) ^b
FAC	51.18 (\pm 8.43) ^a	49.28 (\pm 7.83) ^a

Data with normal distribution were expressed by the mean and standard deviation and data with abnormal distribution were expressed by the median and interquartile range. Values with different superscripted letters indicate statistically significant differences between groups. Abbreviations: (n): number of animals in each group; AP4: apical 4-chamber; AP2: apical two-chamber; EF: ejection fraction; E_{mitral}: early diastolic mitral inflow velocity; A_{mitral}: late diastolic mitral inflow velocity; ; E_{tricuspid}: early diastolic tricuspid inflow velocity; A_{tricuspid}: late diastolic tricuspid inflow velocity; S': peak velocity of systolic mitral annular motion as determined by pulsed wave Doppler; E': 'peak velocity of early diastolic mitral annular motion as determined by pulsed wave Doppler; A': peak velocity of diastolic mitral annular motion as determined by pulsed wave Doppler; FAC: fractional area change; FS: fractional shortening; HR: heart rate; IVRT: isovolumetric relaxation time; Kg: kilograms; LA/Ao: left atrium-to-aorta ratio; LVIDD_n: left ventricular internal diameter at end-diastole; LVIDS_n: left ventricular internal diameter at end-systole, MAPSE: mitral annular plane systolic excursion; RV: right ventricle; TAPSE: tricuspid annular plane systolic excursion; SBP: systolic blood pressure.

Table 2. Advanced echocardiography data comparing patients with multicentric lymphoma and the control group.

	Lymphoma	Control
(n)	19	15
<i>Strain AP4</i>	23.49 (\pm 5.68) ^a	23.75 (\pm 3.35) ^a
<i>Strain AP3</i>	22.85 (\pm 4.0) ^a	24.89 (\pm 4.75) ^a
<i>Strain AP2</i>	19.9 (12.1-26.5) ^a	21.5 (15-30.8) ^a
GLS	22.02 (\pm 4.21) ^a	23.75 (\pm 3.59) ^a
<i>Strain C Basal</i>	19.43 (\pm 4.82) ^a	21.82 (\pm 3.32) ^a
<i>Strain C Middle</i>	19.3 (14.6-27.1) ^a	20 (16.1-32.8) ^a
<i>Strain C Apical</i>	18.97 (\pm 4.54) ^a	24.97 (\pm 3.97) ^b
GCS	19.28 (\pm 3.31) ^a	22.76 (\pm 2.97) ^b
Global TMAD _%	14.3 (\pm 3.3) ^a	14.17 (\pm 2.56) ^a
Global TMAD _{mm}	8.5 (4.4-11.75) ^a	5.8 (4-12.25) ^a
Global TMAD _{mm/Kg}	0.39 (0.16-2.09) ^a	0.78 (0.25-3.83) ^b
Global TMAD _{mm/m²}	11.16 (5.1-29.6) ^a	14.82 (7.7-40.5) ^a
Global TMAD _{mm/³BW}	3.17 (\pm 0.88) ^a	3.22 (\pm 0.69) ^a
<i>RV Strain</i>	20.35 (\pm 5.86) ^a	25.13 (\pm 4.51) ^b
RV TMAD _%	6.64 (\pm 2.19) ^a	6.76 (\pm 2.44) ^b
RV TMAD _{mm}	16.8 (11-23.3) ^a	21.5 (12.9-25.7) ^a
RV TMAD _{mm/kg}	0.44 (0.13-2.03) ^a	0.95 (0.21-3.58) ^b
RV TMAD _{mm/m²}	9.59 (4.25-28.8) ^a	18.17 (6.6-37.8) ^b
RV TMAD _{mm/³BW}	2.61 (\pm 0.73) ^a	3.4 (\pm 0.89) ^b

Data with normal distribution are expressed by the mean and standard deviation and data with abnormal distribution are expressed by the median and interquartile range. Values with different superscripted letters indicate statistically significant differences between groups.

Abbreviations: (n): number of animals in each group; AP2: apical two chamber; AP3: apical three chamber; AP4: apical four chamber; C: circumferential; GCS: Global Circumferential Strain; GLS: Global Longitudinal Strain; TMAD: Tissue Motion Annular Displacement; RV: right ventricle.

Table 3. Analysis of ROC curves and cut-off values with their respective sensitivity and specificity values of the variables that differed between the dogs with lymphoma and the control group.

	<i>Cut-off</i>	Sensitivity	Specificity	AUC	95% IC
E _{mitral} (cm/s)	>68.10	80	57.89	0.70	0.52-0.89
A _{mitral} (cm/s)	>61.15	93.33	52.63	0.75	0.59-0.91
S' _{septal} (cm/s)	>9.70	93.33	63.16	0.79	0.63-0.94
E' _{septal} (cm/s)	>7.41	86.67	73.68	0.78	0.62-0.94
A' _{septal} (cm/s)	>9.90	53.33	89.47	0.72	0.54-0.9
S' _{lateral} (cm/s)	>12.75	60	94.74	0.8	0.64-0.95
A' _{lateral} (cm/s)	>10.50	66.67	84.21	0.76	0.59-0.92
RV S' (cm/s)	>14.85	86.67	89.47	0.91	0.81-1.0
RV E' (cm/s)	>8.50	86.67	78.95	0.83	0.69-0.97
RV A' (cm/s)	>12.40	86.67	94.74	0.94	0.86-1.0
Strain C Apical	<18.95	66.67	100	0.84	0.70-0.98
GCS	>13.98	93.33	47.37	0.70	0.52-0.87
Global TMAD mm/Kg	<0.43	60	89.47	0.72	0.53-0.90
RV Strain	<22.85	80	73.68	0.74	0.56-0.92
RV TMAD%	<21.20	93.33	57.89	0.74	0.57-0.91
RV TMAD _{mm/kg}	<0.63	86.67	78.95	0.8	0.65-0.96
RV TMAD _{mm/m²}	<13.27	86.67	78.95	0.8	0.64-0.95
RV TMAD _{mm} / $\sqrt[3]{BW}$	<3.34	93.33	52.63	0.72	0.55-0.90

E_{mitral}: early diastolic mitral inflow velocity; A_{mitral}: late diastolic mitral inflow velocity; C: circumferential; S': peak velocity of systolic mitral annular motion as determined by pulsed wave Doppler; E': peak velocity of early diastolic mitral annular motion as determined by pulsed wave Doppler; A': peak velocity of diastolic mitral annular motion as determined by pulsed wave Doppler; FS: fractional shortening; GCS: Global Circumferential Strain; TMAD: Tissue Motion Annular Displacement RV: right ventricle.

1 **3 Longitudinal assessment of global and segmental left ventricular**
2 **systolic function in dogs undergoing chemotherapy with doxorubicin**

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13

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18

19 **Running head:** Speckle tracking echocardiography in dogs undergoing
20 chemotherapy with doxorubicin

21 3.1 Abstract

22 *Introduction:* Cardiotoxicity with left ventricular dysfunction is a possible
23 complication in patients undergoing chemotherapy. Advanced
24 echocardiography techniques, such as the global longitudinal strain (GLS) and
25 tissue motion annular displacement (TMAD), allow the early detection of
26 myocardial dysfunction due to cardiotoxicity in relation to conventional
27 echocardiography in human beings with cancer.

28 *Animals:* 25 dogs with cancer undergoing chemotherapy with doxorubicin in
29 different protocols.

30 *Methods:* Prospective and longitudinal study. Dogs underwent conventional
31 echocardiography and speckle tracking analysis before chemotherapy (day 0),
32 7 days, 60 days, 120 days and 180 (180d) days after the first administration of
33 doxorubicin.

34 *Results:* 12 of 25 dogs completed all evaluations of the study. There was no
35 difference in volume variables by Simpson's method, as well as fractional
36 shortening, ejection fraction, global circumferential strain and GLS at different
37 evaluation times. However, a reduction was observed in the lateral MAPSEi
38 ($P=0.0233$) and in the global TMAD% ($P=0.046$) when compared to the pre-
39 chemotherapy evaluation with 180d in the paired analysis of the 12 dogs. The
40 reduction in E' wave velocity at 180d compared to the initial assessment and the
41 negative correlation of the doxorubicin dose with the E:A ratio may demonstrate
42 a dose-dependent influence of this chemotherapy drug on diastolic function.

43 *Conclusions:* A reduction in longitudinal systolic function was detected by
44 MAPSE and global TMAD in dogs at a safe cumulative dose of doxorubicin.
45 Speckle tracking echocardiography did not detect a reduction in cardiac function

46 early on conventional echocardiography in this study.

47 *Key words:* cardiotoxicity, echocardiography, oncology, strain, speckle tracking.

48

49 **3.2 List of Abbreviations**

50

AP4	apical four-chamber
AP2	apical two-chamber
AP3	apical three-chamber
CSt	circumferential strain
CD	cumulative dose
CHOP protocol	doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, vincristine and prednisone
DoxoCarbo	doxorubicin and carboplatin
EF	ejection fraction
FS	fractional shortening
GCS	global circumferential strain
GLS	global longitudinal strain
HF	heart failure
IVRT	isovolumic relaxation time
LSt	longitudinal strain
LV	left ventricular
LVID _d _n	normalized left ventricular internal dimension at end-diastole
LVID _s _n	normalized left ventricular internal dimension at end-systole
MAPSE _i	mitral annular plane systolic excursion indexed to the body surface area
ROI	region of interest
S'	peak velocity of systolic mitral annular motion as determined by pulsed wave Doppler

SBP	systolic blood pressure
TMAD	tissue motion annular displacement

51

52 **3.3 INTRODUCTION**

53

54 Doxorubicin is a chemotherapeutic agent of the anthracycline class
55 widely used in veterinary medicine for the treatment of various neoplasms [1].
56 However, one of its main side effects is cardiotoxicity [2] reported in several
57 species, such as humans [3], dogs [4], cats [5] and rats [6]. The mechanism of
58 doxorubicin cardiotoxicity is still not fully understood, however the inhibition of
59 topoisomerase resulting in alteration in cellular DNA, increase in cellular
60 oxidative stress [2] and increase in death receptors are the main points reported
61 [7].

62 Doxorubicin cardiotoxicity is dose-dependent. Studies shown a
63 cardiotoxic effect in dogs at a cumulative dose (CD) of 90 to 265 mg/m²
64 [1,4,8,9]. The timing of cardiotoxicity detection is directly related to the analysis
65 methodology. Biomarkers such as troponin I [10,11], and microRNAs [12], have
66 been shown to be early to conventional echocardiography in detecting
67 myocardial injury in dogs and humans. However, echocardiography is a non-
68 invasive, non-ionizing method, with good accessibility that allows the
69 assessment of cardiac function and an important tool in the follow-up of these
70 patients, assisting in the therapeutic management and decision-making in the
71 cardio-oncology field [13]. Speckle tracking techniques such as the global
72 longitudinal strain (GLS) provide early information and are recommended in the
73 follow-up of people with cancer [13]. Tissue motion annular displacement is also

74 a speckle tracking technique that assesses longitudinal systolic function that
75 has already been studied in dogs [14,15,16] and that has demonstrated early
76 detection of cardiotoxicity in childhood surviving cancer [17]. Therefore, this
77 study aims to evaluate the cardiotoxicity of doxorubicin in dogs during different
78 chemotherapy protocols with doxorubicin, through conventional
79 echocardiography and speckle tracking analysis.

80

81 **3.4 MATERIALS AND METHODS**

82 ***Animals***

83 Dogs with different types of neoplasia treated at the oncology sector of
84 the veterinary teaching facility and at a private veterinary hospital between
85 February 2019 and March 2021, which received at least one dose of
86 doxorubicin were included in this prospective and longitudinal study. All
87 procedures were approved by the Institutional Animal Use Committee and
88 complied with the National Institutes of Health Guide for the Care and Use of
89 Laboratory Animals. Owners gave formal consent prior to the animal being
90 enrolled on the study.

91 Animals that received chemotherapy with doxorubicin alone or in
92 combination with other drugs (according to the protocol determined by the
93 responsible veterinary oncologist) were selected. The initial assessment (day 0)
94 was performed before the start of the chemotherapy protocol. The following
95 evaluations were performed based on the administration of doxorubicin, these
96 being 7, 21, 60, 120 and 180 days after the first application of doxorubicin
97 (Figure 1).

98 In addition to echocardiography, in all evaluations, patients underwent a

99 complete physical examination, at least 3 minutes of computerized
100 electrocardiography^a to determine heart rhythm and rate immediately before
101 echocardiography, and non-invasive blood pressure measurement^b, as
102 previously recommended [18].

103 Exclusion criteria were the presence of systolic dysfunction in the initial
104 evaluation, cardiomegaly, arrhythmias (except arrhythmias of sinus origin), the
105 use of cardiovascular drugs, congenital heart diseases, cardiac neoplasms,
106 pericardial effusion and systemic arterial hypertension [systolic blood pressure
107 (SBP)>160 mmHg] or systemic arterial hypotension (SBP <80 mmHg). Dogs
108 whose owner does not formally agree with the procedure by signing the
109 informed consent form will also not be admitted to the research.

110 **Conventional Echocardiography**

111 Echocardiography^c was performed by an experienced observer (MW)
112 with continuous electrocardiogram monitoring. The study was carried out with
113 unsedated dogs in left and right lateral recumbency, as recommended by the
114 Echocardiography Committee of the Specialty of Cardiology of the American
115 College of Veterinary Internal Medicine [19].

116 Left ventricular ejection fraction (EF) was obtained by the Teichholz
117 method with M-mode in the short axis and also by Simpson's biplanar method in
118 the apical 4-chamber and 2-chamber view, in which the systolic and diastolic
119 volumes of the left ventricle were also recorded. Fractional shortening (FS), as
120 well as left ventricular systolic and diastolic diameters were obtained by M-
121 mode in the short axis. Normalized dimensions of the left ventricle were
122 calculated according to the previously reported method [20]. The left atrium and
123 aorta ratio was obtained in early diastole by the two-dimensional mode [21].

124 The mitral early (E) and late (A) diastolic peak velocities were obtained
125 with pulsed Doppler on the transmitral flow in the apical four-chamber view,
126 while the isovolumetric relaxation time (IVRT) was performed with pulsed
127 Doppler in the apical 5-chamber view. From these parameters the E:A and the
128 E:IVRT ratios were calculated.

129 The aortic valve closure time (R to AVC) was obtained with pulsed
130 Doppler in the aortic flow in the 5-chamber apical view and consists of the time,
131 in milliseconds, from the beginning of the QRS complex to the end of the aortic
132 flow spectral. This time is used by the software to determine the systolic period
133 in speckle tracking analyses.

134 Tissue Doppler evaluation was performed in the septal and parietal
135 region of the mitral annulus to obtain systolic (S'), early diastolic (E') and late
136 diastolic (A') velocities, which were also used to calculate E':A' ratio. Mitral
137 annulus systolic excursion (MAPSE) was obtained with M-mode in the septal
138 (MAPSE septal) and lateral (MAPSE lateral) region of the mitral annulus. Mitral
139 annular plane systolic excursion and left ventricular systolic and diastolic
140 volume were indexed by body surface area (BSA), using the following formula:

$$141 \quad \text{BSA} = K \times (\text{body weight in grams}^{2/3}) \times 10^{-4}$$

142 K= constant (10.1 for dogs)

143

144 **Speckle tracking echocardiography**

145 All speckle tracking techniques were performed offline^d with the images
146 previously obtained.

147 *Global longitudinal strain*

148 At least five cardiac cycles of apical 4- (AP4), 2- (AP2), 3- (AP3) chamber

149 views were recorded for subsequent off-line evaluations of longitudinal strain.
150 The software automatically tracking the left ventricle and divided the ventricle
151 into seven segments, to which manual corrections were made if necessary.

152 Longitudinal strain (LSt) was obtained by averaging the percentage of
153 deformation of the 7 segments of the left ventricle in a heartbeat. In addition to
154 the AP4, AP3 and AP2 longitudinal strain values, the segmental strain was also
155 evaluated. Therefore, the deformation of the 21 segments resulting from the 3
156 analyses were recorded and compared.

157 Global longitudinal strain was calculated as the average of LSt obtained
158 in AP4, AP2 and AP3 images, and with these segmented sections, the software
159 provides a diagram of the left ventricle, called "bull's eye".

160

161 *Global circumferential strain*

162 At least five cardiac cycles were recorded of the apical, middle (papillary
163 plane) and mitral plane on the short axis in the right parasternal window for
164 subsequent off-line evaluations of circumferential strain (CSt). Circumferential
165 strain was obtained as the percentage of CSt in a heartbeat and global
166 circumferential strain (GCS) was calculated as the average of CSt obtained in
167 apical, middle and mitral plane images.

168

169 *Tissue motion annular displacement*

170 The tissue motion annular displacement (TMAD) was performed on AP4
171 and AP2 images, from the definition of three regions of interest (ROI) by the
172 operator, two of them in the mitral annulus region and the third in the epicardial
173 region of the left ventricle. The software automatically tracks the displacement

174 of the mitral annulus ROIs towards the third ROI in the apex region (in mm). In
175 addition, a midpoint is created between the two ROIs of the mitral annulus, and
176 the software provides the displacement of the midpoint towards the third ROI in
177 mm and in percentage in relation to the length of the left ventricle.

178 Global TMAD of the left ventricle is an average of the measurements
179 obtained in the AP4 and AP2 chambers and was calculated in 2 different ways:
180 global TMAD% is the mean fractional displacement (in relation to the total LV
181 length) of the midpoint towards the LV apex in the AP4 and AP2 chamber
182 images and the global TMAD_{mm/m²} is global TMAD_{mm} [which is the average
183 displacement (in mm) of the midpoint of the mitral annulus obtained in AP4 and
184 AP2 images towards the apex] indexed to BSA, as previous described [14].

185

186 **3.5 Statistical Analysis**

187 Statistical analyses were performed^e and normality of the data was
188 evaluated by the Shapiro-Wilk test. For parameters with normal distribution,
189 differences between groups were evaluated with ANOVA, followed by the post
190 hoc Tukey's multiple comparisons test. For non-normally distributed data
191 differences between groups were assessed using Kruskal-Wallis test followed
192 by Dunn's multiple comparisons test. Fisher's test was used to assess
193 categorical data (sex and rhythm). A paired analysis of the 12 dogs that
194 completed all the evaluations proposed by the study was performed. For this,
195 the test ANOVA, followed by the post hoc Tukey's multiple comparisons test
196 was used for the parametric data, and Friedman test followed by Dunn's
197 multiple comparisons test to non-parametric data.

198 The correlation of the CD of doxorubicin with the echocardiographic

199 parameters was evaluated by the Pearson correlation test (normal distribution)
200 or Spearman (anormal distribution). T test or the Mann-Whitney test were used
201 to compare the echocardiographic variables between the different
202 chemotherapy protocols (doxorubicin with carboplatin and doxorubicin with
203 cyclophosphamide, vincristine and prednisone). The Chi-Square test was
204 performed to compare the difference between the number of animals at different
205 times of evaluation.

206 Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curves were performed to
207 determine the cut-off values with the best combination of sensitivity and
208 specificity of the variables to differentiate patients who died and survived.
209 Kaplan-Meier curves were used to assess the prognostic value of this variables
210 for the all-cause mortality. Breslow's test was used to assess differences
211 between curves. A value of $P < 0.05$ was considered significant.

212

213 **3.6 RESULTS**

214 Initially, 32 dogs that would undergo chemotherapy with doxorubicin were
215 recruited for this study. However, seven were excluded from the longitudinal
216 analysis, because one of them had mitral valve disease ACVIM B2 stage in pre
217 doxorubicin assessment and would receive pimobendan, five due to tutors'
218 withdrawal and one of them presented valve neoformation during treatment.
219 Therefore, 25 dogs were included: 13 females and 12 males aged from 2 to 16
220 years (median: 10 years; mean: 9.9 years); weighting (median: 7.9 kg; mean:
221 12.7 kg), most of them neutered (N=18). Of the 25 dogs recruited, 12 dogs
222 completed the 6 assessments (pre-dox, 7d, 21d, 60d, 120d and 180d), and
223 although there is a progressive reduction in the number of animals, there was

224 no difference ($P=0.998$) between the number of animals at different times of
225 analysis.

226 The chemotherapy protocol was determined by the oncology service.
227 Doxorubicin was used in the protocols in association with cyclophosphamide,
228 vincristine and prednisone (CHOP protocol) in 10 patients ($n=10$), in association
229 with carboplatin (DoxoCarbo) ($n=10$) and as a single agent ($n=5$). Lymphoma
230 was the most common neoplasm, affecting 10 of the 25 dogs, followed by
231 mammary adenocarcinoma ($n=10$), mesothelioma, leiomyosarcoma,
232 chondrosarcoma, melanoma and inflammatory carcinoma ($n=1$ each).

233 Doxorubicin dose was calculated to 30 mg/m^2 for dogs $\geq 15 \text{ kg}$ and 1
234 mg/kg for dogs $< 15 \text{ kg}$. However, for standardization, the milligram per kg was
235 used in this study and the administration was at an interval of between 20 to 30
236 minutes. Total CD of dox of 12 dogs that completed all assessments range from
237 3.45 mg/kg to 5 mg/kg (median: 4 mg/kg ; mean: $4,26 \text{ mg/kg}$).

238 The breeds included were Crossbreed ($n=9$), Golden Retriever ($n=3$),
239 Poodle ($n=3$), Dachshund ($n=2$), Lhasa Apso ($n=2$), Rottweiler, Schnauzer,
240 German Shepherd, Pinscher, Fox Terrier and English Bulldog ($n=1$ each).

241 The most frequent rhythm was sinus arrhythmia ($n=14/56\%$), followed by
242 sinus rhythm ($n=10/40\%$) and sinus tachycardia ($n=1/4\%$). An English bulldog
243 presented sinus arrhythmia with ventricular premature complexes alone and in
244 pairs at reassessment 60 days after the first dose of doxorubicin. Of the 25
245 dogs included in the study, 4 had degenerative disease of the mitral and
246 tricuspid valves and 3 only had mitral valve disease, all with mild valvular
247 insufficiency, without cardiac remodeling and without hemodynamic
248 repercussions (ACVIM Stage B1).

249 Comparisons were also made between the animals that received the
250 different chemotherapy protocols (CHOP and DoxoCarbo). No differences were
251 found regarding rhythm ($P=0.069$), body weight ($P=0.477$), heart rate ($P=0.559$)
252 and SBP ($P=0.308$). However, patients in the CHOP group were younger
253 ($P=0.0013$) compared to animals in the DoxoCarbo group, as well as the CHOP
254 group had more males ($n=8/80\%$) than the DoxoCarbo group ($N=1/10\%$). Of the
255 12 patients who completed all study evaluations, half of them received the
256 DoxoCarbo protocol ($N=6/50\%$), followed by CHOP ($N=5/41.7\%$) and Doxo as
257 only agent ($N=1/8.3\%$). Patients in the CHOP group presented higher values of
258 E wave ($P=0.013$), E' wave ($P=0.005$) and E:A ratio ($P=0.024$) in the pre-
259 chemotherapy echocardiographic evaluation when compared to the DoxoCarbo
260 group. At the end of the study (180d), the animals that received the CHOP
261 protocol showed less GCS ($P=0.0104$) and greater LVIDdn ($P=0.015$) when
262 compared to the DoxoCarbo group.

263 The comparison of the evolution of the animals throughout the treatment
264 was performed in 4 different ways. An unpaired evaluation involving all study
265 animals (Table 1) ($N=25$), as well as only patients who received CHOP protocol
266 ($N=10$) and DoxoCarbo ($N=10$) were compared over time. In addition, a paired
267 analysis was performed only comparing the 12 patients who completed the last
268 evaluation (Table 2) (180d).

269 The unpaired evaluation of the 25 animal dogs over time revealed a
270 reduction in the lateral S' wave velocity ($P=0.039$), however, in the post hoc
271 analysis there was no significant difference. A reduction in E' wave velocity
272 ($P=0.047$) was observed when compared to the pre-chemotherapy assessment
273 of the 180d assessment. No variables differed over time in patients receiving

274 CHOP protocol. However, smaller values of S', E' lateral waves and EF by the
275 biplanar method were found in the 180d evaluation when compared to the initial
276 evaluation in the dogs receiving the DoxoCarbo protocol. In the paired
277 evaluation of the 12 animals that completed all evaluations, there was a
278 reduction in lateral MAPSEi ($P=0.0023$) and global TMAD% ($P=0.003$) in the
279 180-day evaluation, as well as a reduction in septal MAPSEi at the 21-day
280 assessment compared to pre-chemotherapy evaluation (Figure 2). No
281 difference was found in the segmental assessment of the left ventricle.

282 A negative correlation was found between the CD of doxorubicin and the
283 E:A ratio ($P=0.004$; $R=-0.785$), with the septal S' wave velocity ($P=0.0016$; $R=-$
284 0.692) and lateral E' wave ($P=0.034$; $R=-0.621$).

285 None of the patients in this study developed signs of heart failure (cough,
286 dyspnea, tachypnea, syncope, easy tiredness) or died from a cardiac cause. No
287 differences were found in the echocardiographic variables of the surviving
288 animals from those that died. Therefore, neither parameter was able to
289 accurately predict all-cause mortality in this study and showed a difference in
290 the survival analysis (Table 3).

291 The median survival time of the study animals ($N=25$) was 201 days, for
292 patients who received a protocol with DoxoCarbo ($N=10$) it was 411, CHOP was
293 181.5 and only Doxo ($N=5$) was 117 days. There was no difference in patient
294 survival in the different protocols ($P=0.139$).

295

296 **3.7 DISCUSSION**

297 Cardiotoxicity is one of the main complications of treatment and an
298 important impact factor in the survival of cancer patients. The early detection of

299 cardiotoxicity is an object of study for optimal patient follow-up and appropriate
300 therapeutic approach in the cardio-oncological field [10,13].

301 In this study, no patient showed clinical signs during treatment related to
302 cardiovascular diseases, and none of them developed important systolic
303 dysfunction and significant cardiac remodeling. This may be related to the CD of
304 doxorubicin, in this study the mean final CD of the 12 patients was 4.26 mg/kg,
305 approximately 130 mg/m². In the literature, studies show a 4% incidence of
306 clinical cardiotoxicity in dogs, with a median of 144.78 mg/m² [4]. However,
307 another study with a mean CD of 90 mg/m² (30 – 180 mg/m²) shows an
308 incidence of 7.4%, with signs of congestive heart failure, arrhythmias and
309 systolic dysfunction [22].

310 A reduction in longitudinal systolic function (detected by MAPSE and
311 global TMAD%) was observed at the 21d and 180d assessment (Figure 2 and 3
312 and Table 2). Longitudinal myocardial function can be affected prior to radial
313 function in several diseases, such as in dogs with endocardiosis [16],
314 pulmonary hypertension [23], hyperadrenocorticism [24], and in cats with
315 cardiomyopathy [25]. The speckle tracking techniques, such as TMAD and
316 GLS, allows the detection of reduced longitudinal myocardial function earlier
317 than conventional parameters, such as EF, in humans undergoing
318 chemotherapy [10,26,27]. Global longitudinal strain is a recommended
319 technique in the echocardiographic follow-up of cardio-oncology patients
320 [13,28], in addition to providing prognostic information in patients with preserved
321 EF [29]. Experimentally, strain has also been shown to detect early reduction in
322 myocardial function in rats receiving doxorubicin [6]. Interestingly, no difference
323 in GLS was observed in this investigation, as well as speckle tracking

324 echocardiography techniques were not early in detecting the drop in myocardial
325 function. This can be explained by a few factors. The incidence of doxorubicin
326 cardiotoxicity is known to be dose-dependent in humans and dogs [4,28].
327 Cumulative doses less than 150 mg/m² are considered safe [30]. In this study,
328 the mean final CD of the 12 patients was approximately 130 mg/m², which may
329 explain why these patients did not present severe echocardiographic
330 alterations. Another factor to consider is the possibility that these tissue
331 techniques are not sensitive enough to detect very slight changes in the
332 myocardium [30], which could perhaps be detected by histopathology,
333 biomarkers or molecular methods [4]. Furthermore, in this study no patient was
334 of a breed predisposed to the development of cardiomyopathy, it is known that
335 heavier dogs and dogs of breeds predisposed to the development of
336 cardiomyopathy are at greater risk of developing cardiotoxicity [4]. Our results
337 partially corroborate those of another prospective study involving 14 dogs with
338 lymphoma with a final CD of doxorubicin of 120 mg/m² associated with other
339 chemotherapeutic agents, which did not detect changes in myocardial function
340 parameters by conventional echocardiography, as well as tissue
341 echocardiography and in the troponin I concentration [30].

342 In this study, no differences were observed in volumetric, as well as in
343 shortening and EF. These results are similar to another longitudinal study with
344 13 dogs in different protocols with doxorubicin, in which one dog had a CD of 30
345 mg/m², 3 dogs with 60 mg/m², 2 with 90 mg/m², 6 with 120 mg/m². m² and 1 with
346 150 mg/m² [31]. Surachetpong et al. [11] also found no difference in the
347 volumetric assessment of the left ventricle in dogs with a final CD 120 mg/m².
348 Fractional shortening is a later parameter of cardiotoxicity detection [4].

349 However, another investigation showed that reductions in FS and EF can occur
350 in dogs with a CD considered safe (90 mg/m²) [11].

351 Although differences in segmental deformation of the left ventricular
352 strain have been reported in humans undergoing chemotherapy [26], no
353 differences were found in the dogs in this study, as previously described in a
354 tissue Doppler study in dogs with a similar CD of doxorubicin [30].

355 Comparison between patients who received different protocols
356 (DoxoCarbo and CHOP) reveal lower systolic indices in dogs who receive the
357 CHOP protocol in the 180d assessment. However, in the longitudinal evaluation
358 over time, there was a reduction in the parameters of systolic (S' wave, EF) and
359 diastolic (E' wave) function parameters in patients who received the DoxoCarbo
360 protocol at 180 days. As there is no difference between body weight in these
361 groups, the influence of other chemotherapeutic agents in the protocol cannot
362 be ruled out, as well as the neoplasm (mostly lymphoma in the CHOP group),
363 due to the fact that patients in the CHOP group ended the study with a lower
364 average CD (3.84 mg/kg) than the DoxoCarbo group (4.5 mg/kg) and the small
365 number of animals in each group at this point of evaluation (5 dogs each) must
366 be taken into account.

367 In this study, the infusion rate of doxorubicin recommended by the
368 oncology department was 20 to 30 minutes. It is known that in people, the rate
369 of doxorubicin infusion is directly related to the incidence of cardiotoxicity [32].
370 Slower infusions (6 hours) are related to a lower incidence of cardiovascular
371 complications [32] and it was speculated that slower infusions could generate a
372 lower rate of cardiotoxicity in dogs [30]. However, one recent retrospective
373 study found no difference in the incidence of clinical cardiotoxicity in dogs when

374 comparing a 10- to 15-minute and a 1-hour doxorubicin infusion rate [4],
375 demonstrating that this may not be a factor that may have influenced our results
376 considerably.

377 The reduction in E' wave velocity at 180 days compared to the initial
378 assessment and the negative correlation of the doxorubicin dose with the E:A
379 ratio may demonstrate a dose-dependent influence of this chemotherapy drug
380 on diastolic function. An alteration in diastolic function detected by a reduction in
381 the E:A ratio has already been observed in a study with longitudinal evaluation
382 of dogs in different protocols with doxorubicin, in which no differences were
383 detected in the parameters of systolic function [31].

384 The velocity of the E wave, the E' wave and the E:A ratio was higher in
385 the pre-chemotherapy evaluation of patients who received the CHOP protocol,
386 this is possibly due to the fact that this group is composed of younger patients
387 and in this study a correlation was observed age with the E:A ratio ($P=0.0011$;
388 $R=-0.613$). A negative influence of age on the early diastolic phase detected by
389 mitral flow velocities using a conventional Doppler examination as well as tissue
390 Doppler have already been reported [33].

391 A higher prevalence of males was observed in patients who received the
392 CHOP protocol. Although most patients were neutered, it is known that male
393 dogs are more predisposed to lymphoma than females, as well as neutered
394 animals are at greater risk, than not neutered [34].

395 In this study, only one dog had premature ventricular complexes after
396 starting the chemotherapy protocol, which corroborates other studies that also
397 found development of ventricular and supraventricular arrhythmias in dogs
398 treated with doxorubicin [4,12]. The appearance of ventricular arrhythmias

399 correlates with the incidence of clinical cardiotoxicity in dogs [4]. On the other
400 hand, other studies with a similar CD did not find significant
401 electrocardiographic changes in dogs undergoing chemotherapy with
402 doxorubicin, in which the development of arrhythmias and differences in the
403 measurements of waves and electrocardiographic intervals were not observed
404 [11,30].

405 Changes in blood pressure, such as the development of arterial
406 hypertension, have been described in humans as a factor of cardiotoxicity [13].
407 However, in this study, no differences were observed in the value of systolic
408 blood pressure during chemotherapy treatment.

409 Global longitudinal strain value less than 18% with preserved ejection
410 fraction it is related to lower survival in people on chemotherapy [29]. However,
411 $GLS > 22.5$ had 66.6% sensitivity and 66.6% specificity and low accuracy to
412 separate dogs who lived from those who died, and no echocardiographic
413 parameter was shown to be a good predictor of mortality and survival analysis
414 in this study. This can be explained by the fact that none of the patients in this
415 study developed significant clinical cardiotoxicity and cardiac death.

416 This study must be interpreted in the context of its several limitations.
417 The small number of animals is one of the most important limiting factors to be
418 considered. Another important limitation is the non-standardization of
419 doxorubicin and chemotherapy protocols, since the patients are from the
420 hospital routine and in some cases needed a change in the protocol for specific
421 reasons determined by the veterinary oncologist. In addition, the effects of other
422 medications and chemotherapy on cardiac parameters assessed by
423 echocardiography is not known. These drugs could not only affect myocardial

424 performance but also alter cardiovascular loading conditions and interfere with
425 some echocardiographic parameters. Also, ancillary examinations to rule out
426 concurrent systemic diseases, i.e. infectious diseases, which might affect
427 systolic function, were not performed unless the animal's clinical condition
428 required it. Heart rhythm was monitored for only 3 minutes with conventional
429 electrocardiography, however, a Holter analysis would provide more accurate
430 information about heart rhythm and incidence of cardiotoxicity with arrhythmias
431 in these patients. The different types of neoplasia included in the study may
432 also have an influence on the results obtained, especially in the survival
433 analysis, and the absence of a comparison with a gold standard, as a
434 histopathological evaluation of myocardium, is also an important limitation.

435 In conclusion, a reduction in longitudinal systolic function can be detected
436 by MAPSE and global TMAD in dogs undergoing chemotherapy with
437 considered safe doses of doxorubicin. Speckle tracking echocardiography
438 techniques (Strain and TMAD) did not detect a reduction in cardiac function
439 early on conventional echocardiography in this study.

440

441 **Conflict of Interest Statement**

442 The authors do not have any conflicts of interest to disclose.

443

444 **Footnotes**

445 ^a - TEB ECG PC - Tecnologia Eletrônica Brasileira, São Paulo, Brazil.

446 ^b - MedMega DV 6108 - Vascular *Doppler*, 10 MHz, Franca, Brazil.

447 ^c - Philips Affiniti 50 ultrasound system equipped with 2-4, 3-8 and 4-12 MHz
448 phased-array transducers, Andover, MA, USA.

449 ^d - QLAB Software - automatic cardiac motion quantification (aCMQ)

450 ^e - Graphpad prism 5.0 Software

451

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Table 1 – Descriptive data, cumulative dose of doxorubicin and the main echocardiographic variables compared over time in all animals of the study.

	Pre (Day 0)	7d	21d	60d	120d	180d	P
N	25	23	21	19	15	12	0.998
N (CHOP/DoxoCarbo/Doxo)	10/10/5	10/10/3	10/9/2	9/9/1	7/7/1	5/6/1	0.998
CD of doxorubicin (mg/kg)	0	0.99 (0.88 – 1)	1.09 (0.88 – 2.17)	2.09 (1.74 – 4.3)	3.48 (2.6 – 4)	4.26 (3.45 – 5)	
E:A	0.88(0.58-1.38)	0.99 (0.57-1.56)	0.99 (0.58-1.29)	0.96 (0.57-1.80)	1.0 (0.60-1.30)	0.92 (0.50-1.70)	0.986
LA:Ao	1.24 (1.0-2.0)	1.22 (1.0-1.45)	1.29 (1.0-1.56)	1.30 (1.0-1.53)	1.27 (1.0-1.67)	1.27 (1.0-1.67)	0.615
LVIDDn	1.45 (1.21-2.63)	1.44 (1.22-1.71)	1.41 (0.45-1.78)	1.43 (1.20-1.95)	1.41 (1.28-1.91)	1.45 (1.24-1.73)	0.8205
LVIDSn	0.81 (0.59-1.30)	0.81 (0.61-1.08)	0.80 (0.60-1.30)	0.78 (0.62-1.29)	0.79 (0.60-1.15)	0.85 (0.56-0.96)	0.833
FS (%)	44.03 (±6.97)	42.77 (±6.04)	43.39 (±7.09)	41.99 (±7.85)	42.82 (±6.79)	40.08 (±7.26)	0.699
EF (AP4 SM) (%)	75.40 (61.50-85.80)	75.30 (56.70-81.5)	72.60 (59.10-83.40)	72.70 (61.40-80.80)	73.30 (59.20-77.30)	70.35 (60.50-79.0)	0.201
EF (AP2 SM) (%)	74.85 (±6.42)	74.58 (±7.03)	74.12 (±7.68)	74.16 (±5.53)	74.53 (±6.13)	69.89 (±3.99)	0.350
EF Biplane SM (%)	74.74 (±5.24)	73.60 (±6.54)	73.01 (±6.37)	73.83 (±3.95)	73.36 (±4.64)	70.31 (±4.29)	0.344
EDVi AP4 (ml/m²)	45.97 (16.60-117.80)	37.55 (15.20-83.40)	37.38 (23.19-63.41)	35.86 (17.70-68.88)	36.84 (18.34-84.61)	37.85 (22.80-64.91)	0.462
ESVi AP4 (ml/m²)	9.85 (5.01-45.35)	9.87 (3.07-24.25)	11.45 (4.97-25.44)	9.29 (4.14-26.59)	9.88 (4.16-20.49)	11.63 (5.84-15.22)	0.906
S' septal (cm/s)	11.06 (±2.11)	10.42 (±1.80)	10.35 (±1.75)	10.87 (±2.74)	9.58 (±1.88)	10.33 (±2.10)	0.360
E' septal (cm/s)	7.86 (4.93-15.3)	7.09 (4.87-9.57)	7.45 (4.54-11.80)	7.88 (4.38-10.40)	6.29 (5.17-9.55)	6.66 (4.77-9.33)	0.316
A' septal (cm/s)	10.35 (±2.0)	9.28 (±1.85)	9.30 (±2.11)	9.31 (±1.90)	8.81 (±2.42)	9.32 (±2.66)	0.297
S' lateral (cm/s)	13.0 (8.41-20.1)	11.10 (7.96-14.50)	10.90 (6.45-18.50)	10.50 (6.29-17.40)	10.30 (7.76-18.10)	9.36 (6.96-13.80)	0.039
E' lateral (cm/s)	8.7 (5.57-16.10)	8.67 (4.77-13.20)	7.66 (4.62-12.90)	8.14 (5.10-12.20)	7.46 (5.57-14.30)	6.79 (4.89-11.30) ^a	0.0471
A' lateral (cm/s)	11.10 (7.11-16.80)	10.20 (4.54-21.0)	10.40 (6.67-14.60)	10.40 (6.47-13.90)	9.85 (6.96-15.10)	10.40 (6.68-12.40)	0.196
MAPSEI lateral (cm/m²)	1.89 (1.17-8.07)	2.01 (1.0-3.33)	1.80 (0.70-2.88)	1.75 (0.93-3.38)	1.64 (0.72-3.20)	1.64 (0.83-2.77)	0.789
MAPSEI septal (cm/m²)	1.82 (0.97-7.51)	1.88 (0.76-2.81)	1.76 (0.85-2.73)	1.83 (0.71-3.79)	1.90 (0.78-2.64)	1.73 (0.75-2.68)	0.921
Strain AP4 (%)	23.31 (±5.39)	22.66 (±4.72)	23.03 (±4.17)	21.89 (±4.75)	21.19 (±4.23)	20.32 (±4.85)	0.442
Strain AP3 (%)	19.44 (±4.60)	20.17 (±5.99)	19.41 (±3.46)	19.13 (±3.85)	19.57 (±3.66)	18.38 (±4.25)	0.926
Strain AP2 (%)	22.62 (±4.61)	23.31 (±6.43)	22.92 (±4.81)	23.74 (±5.04)	23.20 (±4.20)	20.27 (±4.68)	0.555
GLS (%)	21.85 (±4.42)	22.17 (±5.43)	21.79 (±3.77)	21.59 (±4.04)	21.32 (±3.65)	19.65 (±4.29)	0.711
GCS (%)	19.74 (±4.37)	19.24 (±3.53)	19.57 (±3.70)	18.29 (±3.07)	19.57 (±2.09)	19.11 (±3.14)	0.845
Global TMAD%	14.12 (±3.0)	12.91 (±2.13)	13.53 (±2.81)	13.29 (±2.43)	13.03 (±2.25)	12.07 (±2.34)	0.295
Global TMAD mm/m²	15.28 (6.98-29.65)	14.29 (6.09-24.72)	14.29 (6.76-25.48)	15.07 (6.02-27.08)	14.42 (5.73-24.11)	14.06 (5.28-25.28)	0.944

577 (N): number of animals in each group; AP4: apical 4-chamber; AP2: apical two-chamber; EF: ejection fraction; E_{mitral}: early diastolic mitral inflow velocity; EDVi: end-diastolic volume indexed to the body surface area; ESVi: end-systolic volume indexed to the body surface area; A_{mitral}: late diastolic mitral inflow velocity; 578 CD: cumulative dose; E': peak velocity of early diastolic mitral annular motion as determined by pulsed wave Doppler; A': peak velocity of diastolic mitral annular motion as determined by pulsed wave Doppler; FS: fractional shortening; GCS: Global Circumferential Strain; GLS: Global Longitudinal Strain; LA:Ao: left atrium-to-aorta ratio; LVIDDn: normalized left ventricular internal dimension at end-diastole; LVIDSn: normalized left ventricular internal dimension at end-systole; MAPSEI: mitral annular plane systolic excursion indexed to the body surface area; S': peak velocity of systolic mitral annular motion as determined by pulsed wave Doppler; SM: Simpson method; TMAD: Tissue Motion Annular Displacement. Data with normal distribution were expressed by the mean and standard deviation and data with abnormal distribution were expressed by the median and interquartile range. Values with superscripted letter ^a indicate statistically significant differences between pre (day 0) evaluation.

Table 2 – Descriptive data, cumulative dose of doxorubicin and the main echocardiographic variables compared over time from the paired analysis of the 12 animals that reached the end of the study.

	Pre (Day 0)		7d		21d		60d		120d		180d		P
	12	5/6	12	5/6	12	5/6	12	5/6	12	5/6	12	5/6	
N (CHOP/DoxoCarbo)													
CD of doxorubicin (mg/kg)													
E:A													
LA:Ao	0.84 (0.58-1.28)	0	0.98 (0.88 – 1)	0.90 (0.57-1.18)	1.06 (0.88 – 1)	0.95 (0.64-1.50)	2.12 (1.74 – 3)	0.94 (0.57-1.80)	3.52 (2.6 – 4)	0.95 (0.60-1.30)	4.26 (3.45 – 5)	0.92 (0.50-1.70)	0.998
LVIDD_n	1.15 ^{ab} (1.08-1.40)	1.14 ^a (1.0-1.38)	1.47 (1.29-1.71)	1.29 ^b (1.06-1.56)	1.29 ^b (1.06-1.56)	1.40 (0.45-1.78)	1.30 ^b (1.10-1.53)	1.49 (1.30-1.70)	1.23 ^{ab} (1.0-1.67)	1.41 (1.33-1.91)	1.27 ^{ab} (1.0-1.67)	1.45 (1.24-1.73)	0.772
LVIDS_n	0.82 (0.59-1.07)	0.82 (0.61-0.96)	0.82 (0.61-0.96)	0.82 (0.61-0.96)	0.77 (0.71-1.30)	0.77 (0.71-1.30)	0.78 (0.70-0.98)	0.78 (0.70-0.98)	0.81 (0.60-1.15)	0.81 (0.60-1.15)	0.85 (0.56-0.96)	0.85 (0.56-0.96)	0.8652
FS (%)	41.89 (±6.65)	42.51 (±6.67)	42.51 (±6.67)	42.51 (±6.67)	43.76 (±6.29)	43.76 (±6.29)	42.41 (±7.36)	42.41 (±7.36)	42.24 (±6.60)	42.24 (±6.60)	40.08 (±7.26)	40.08 (±7.26)	0.7526
EF (AP4 SM) (%)	75.45 (62.2-80.5)	72.55 (61.0-81.50)	72.55 (61.0-81.50)	72.55 (61.0-81.50)	71.70 (59.10-75.80)	71.70 (59.10-75.80)	73.0 (68.30-80.80)	73.0 (68.30-80.80)	72.65 (59.20-77.3)	72.65 (59.20-77.3)	70.35 (60.50-79.0)	70.35 (60.50-79.0)	0.5960
EF (AP2 SM) (%)	74.76 (±7.12)	75.87 (±6.42)	75.87 (±6.42)	75.87 (±6.42)	72.28 (±6.51)	72.28 (±6.51)	73.79 (±6.33)	73.79 (±6.33)	73.56 (±6.41)	73.56 (±6.41)	69.89 (±3.99)	69.89 (±3.99)	0.0970
EF Biplane SM (%)	74.24 (±5.05)	73.75 (±6.41)	73.75 (±6.41)	73.75 (±6.41)	71.66 (±5.67)	71.66 (±5.67)	74.15 (±3.26)	74.15 (±3.26)	72.62 (±4.92)	72.62 (±4.92)	70.31 (±4.29)	70.31 (±4.29)	0.0609
EDVi AP4 (ml/m²)	38.34 (18.98-80.21)	36.49 (20.65-72.07)	36.49 (20.65-72.07)	36.49 (20.65-72.07)	37.18 (23.19-63.20)	37.18 (23.19-63.20)	38.50 (17.70-57.85)	38.50 (17.70-57.85)	37.9 (18.34-84.61)	37.9 (18.34-84.61)	37.85 (22.80-64.91)	37.85 (22.80-64.91)	0.1440
ESVi AP4 (ml/m²)	8.75 (5.94-24.20)	9.90 (5.04-22.97)	9.90 (5.04-22.97)	9.90 (5.04-22.97)	11.63 (5.61-22.80)	11.63 (5.61-22.80)	9.71 (4.14-18.37)	9.71 (4.14-18.37)	11.16 (4.16-20.49)	11.16 (4.16-20.49)	11.63 (5.84-15.22)	11.63 (5.84-15.22)	0.4159
S`septal (cm/s)	10.97 (±2.54)	10.33 (±1.74)	10.33 (±1.74)	10.33 (±1.74)	10.16 (±1.46)	10.16 (±1.46)	10.60 (±2.88)	10.60 (±2.88)	9.60 (±2.07)	9.60 (±2.07)	10.33 (±2.10)	10.33 (±2.10)	0.2837
E`septal (cm/s)	7.41 (4.93-15.30)	6.49 (5.07-8.59)	6.49 (5.07-8.59)	6.49 (5.07-8.59)	7.34 (4.54-11.80)	7.34 (4.54-11.80)	7.61 (4.87-9.63)	7.61 (4.87-9.63)	6.62 (5.17-9.55)	6.62 (5.17-9.55)	6.66 (4.77-9.33)	6.66 (4.77-9.33)	0.4119
A`septal (cm/s)	10.09 (±1.85)	9.11 (±1.98)	9.11 (±1.98)	9.11 (±1.98)	9.29 (±1.93)	9.29 (±1.93)	9.60 (±2.14)	9.60 (±2.14)	8.94 (±2.54)	8.94 (±2.54)	9.32 (±2.66)	9.32 (±2.66)	0.3696
S`lateral (cm/s)	11.40 (8.41-20.10)	11.05 (7.96-14.30)	11.05 (7.96-14.30)	11.05 (7.96-14.30)	11.05 (6.45-13.70)	11.05 (6.45-13.70)	10.80 (6.29-17.40)	10.80 (6.29-17.40)	10.30 (7.76-18.10)	10.30 (7.76-18.10)	9.36 (6.96-13.80)	9.36 (6.96-13.80)	0.4179
E`lateral (cm/s)	8.45 (5.57-15.60)	7.80 (4.77-12.60)	7.80 (4.77-12.60)	7.80 (4.77-12.60)	7.30 (4.62-11.60)	7.30 (4.62-11.60)	7.60 (5.10-12.20)	7.60 (5.10-12.20)	7.47 (5.57-14.30)	7.47 (5.57-14.30)	6.79 (4.89-11.30)	6.79 (4.89-11.30)	0.2693
A`lateral (cm/s)	11.0 (8.43-15.80)	9.77 (6.27-21.0)	9.77 (6.27-21.0)	9.77 (6.27-21.0)	8.82 (6.67-14.0)	8.82 (6.67-14.0)	9.78 (6.77-13.90)	9.78 (6.77-13.90)	9.66 (7.16-15.10)	9.66 (7.16-15.10)	10.40 (6.68-12.40)	10.40 (6.68-12.40)	0.1519
MAPSEi lateral (cm/m²)	2.06 ^a (1.17-3.19)	1.93 ^a (1.0-3.33)	1.93 ^a (1.0-3.33)	1.93 ^a (1.0-3.33)	1.82 ^{ab} (0.70-2.88)	1.82 ^{ab} (0.70-2.88)	1.83 ^{ab} (0.93-3.38)	1.83 ^{ab} (0.93-3.38)	1.66 ^{ab} (0.88-3.20)	1.66 ^{ab} (0.88-3.20)	1.64 ^b (0.83-2.77) ^b	1.64 ^b (0.83-2.77) ^b	0.1673
MAPSEi septal (cm/m²)	2.18 ^a (0.97-3.24)	1.97 ^{ab} (0.76-2.81)	1.97 ^{ab} (0.76-2.81)	1.97 ^{ab} (0.76-2.81)	1.81 ^b (0.85-2.73)	1.81 ^b (0.85-2.73)	1.87 ^{ab} (0.71-3.79)	1.87 ^{ab} (0.71-3.79)	1.84 ^{ab} (0.89-2.62)	1.84 ^{ab} (0.89-2.62)	1.73 ^{ab} (0.75-2.68)	1.73 ^{ab} (0.75-2.68)	0.0041
Strain AP4 (%)	22.80 (±4.46)	21.91 (±4.55)	21.91 (±4.55)	21.91 (±4.55)	22.10 (±4.05)	22.10 (±4.05)	20.64 (±4.28)	20.64 (±4.28)	21.58 (±4.33)	21.58 (±4.33)	20.32 (±4.85)	20.32 (±4.85)	0.0174
Strain AP3 (%)	18.69 (±3.10)	19.85 (±6.10)	19.85 (±6.10)	19.85 (±6.10)	19.13 (±4.21)	19.13 (±4.21)	17.83 (±3.19)	17.83 (±3.19)	19.24 (±3.65)	19.24 (±3.65)	18.38 (±4.25)	18.38 (±4.25)	0.0945
Strain AP2 (%)	22.43 (±4.32)	22.39 (±6.43)	22.39 (±6.43)	22.39 (±6.43)	21.36 (±4.43)	21.36 (±4.43)	22.96 (±5.42)	22.96 (±5.42)	22.62 (±4.42)	22.62 (±4.42)	20.27 (±4.68)	20.27 (±4.68)	0.4309
GLS (%)	21.30 (±3.24)	21.38 (±5.40)	21.38 (±5.40)	21.38 (±5.40)	20.86 (±3.95)	20.86 (±3.95)	20.48 (±3.82)	20.48 (±3.82)	21.14 (±3.87)	21.14 (±3.87)	19.65 (±4.29)	19.65 (±4.29)	0.3066
GCS (%)	18.62 (±4.60)	18.16 (±4.03)	18.16 (±4.03)	18.16 (±4.03)	19.20 (±3.41)	19.20 (±3.41)	18.04 (±3.54)	18.04 (±3.54)	18.92 (±1.48)	18.92 (±1.48)	19.11 (±3.14)	19.11 (±3.14)	0.2889
Global TMAD%	14.52 (±2.72) ^a	13.16 (±2.15) ^{ab}	13.16 (±2.15) ^{ab}	13.16 (±2.15) ^{ab}	13.48 (±2.35) ^{ab}	13.48 (±2.35) ^{ab}	13.37 (±2.23) ^{ab}	13.37 (±2.23) ^{ab}	13.18 (±2.23) ^{ab}	13.18 (±2.23) ^{ab}	12.07 (±2.34) ^b	12.07 (±2.34) ^b	0.183
Global TMAD mm/m²	15.54 (6.98-29.61)	14.77 (6.09-24.72)	14.77 (6.09-24.72)	14.77 (6.09-24.72)	14.53 (7.65-25.48)	14.53 (7.65-25.48)	15.19 (6.02-27.08)	15.19 (6.02-27.08)	15.25 (5.73-24.11)	15.25 (5.73-24.11)	14.06 (5.28-25.28)	14.06 (5.28-25.28)	0.0465

586 (N): number of animals in each group; AP4: apical 4-chamber; AP2: apical two-chamber; EF: ejection fraction; E_{mitral}: early diastolic mitral inflow velocity; EDVi: end-diastolic volume indexed to the body surface area; ESVi: end-systolic volume indexed to the body surface area; A_{mitral}: late diastolic mitral inflow velocity; 587 CD: cumulative dose; E': peak velocity of early diastolic mitral annular motion as determined by pulsed wave Doppler; A': peak velocity of diastolic mitral annular motion as determined by pulsed wave Doppler; FS: fractional shortening; GCS: Global Circumferential Strain; GLS: Global Longitudinal Strain; LA:Ao: left atrium-to-aorta ratio; LVIDd_n: normalized left ventricular internal dimension at end-diastole; LVIDs_n: normalized left ventricular internal dimension at end-systole; MAPSEi: mitral annular plane systolic excursion indexed to the body surface area; S': peak velocity of systolic mitral annular motion as determined by pulsed wave Doppler; SM: Simpson method; TMAD: Tissue Motion Annular Displacement. Data with normal distribution were expressed by the mean and standard deviation and data with abnormal distribution were expressed by the median and interquartile range. Values with different superscripted letters indicate statistically significant differences between groups and equal letters represents equality between group.

Table 3 – Cut-off values from ROC curve analyzes with sensitivity, specificity and AUC to differentiate dogs that survived from those that died during the study.

	Cut-off	Sensitivity %	Specificity %	AUC	95% CI
E:A	> 0.845	50	76.92	0.6122	0.3862 - 0.8382
LVIDd _n	< 1.330	25	92.31	0.5032	0.2668 - 0.7396
LVIDs _n	< 0.660	91.67	30.77	0.5673	0.3368 - 0.7978
FS	> 45.30	75	61.54	0.6731	0.4566 - 0.8895
EDVi	< 84.98	91.67	30.77	0.5321	0.2959 - 0.7682
ESVi	< 8.645	91.67	30.77	0.5449	0.3125 - 0.7772
LA:Ao	< 1.295	61.54	75	0.6538	0.4294 - 0.8782
S' septal	> 9.165	25	100	0.5128	0.2738 - 0.7518
E' septal	> 8.975	83.33	38.46	0.6058	0.3790 - 0.8325
A' septal	> 11.65	91.67	30.77	0.5609	0.3296 - 0.7921
S' lateral	> 11.80	66.67	84.62	0.6603	0.4225 - 0.8980
E' lateral	> 7.310	33.33	92.31	0.6154	0.3871 - 0.8437
A' lateral	> 10.28	41.67	84.62	0.5513	0.3173 - 0.7853
MAPSEi lateral	> 1.955	58.33	61.54	0.5032	0.2650 - 0.7415
MAPSEi septal	> 2.105	58.33	76.92	0.6090	0.3771 - 0.8409
EF AP4 SM	> 79.25	91.67	30.77	0.5417	0.3073 - 0.7760
EF AP2 SM	> 76.90	50	76.92	0.5256	0.2880 - 0.7633
EF Biplane SM	> 71.40	41.67	92.31	0.5385	0.2975 - 0.7794
GLS	> 22.52	66.67	66.67	0.6111	0.3685 - 0.8537
GCS	> 16.72	84.62	50	0.6282	0.3986 - 0.8578
Global TMADmm/m2	> 19.12	84.62	41.67	0.5609	0.3199 - 0.8019
Global TMAD %	> 14.08	61.54	66.67	0.5897	0.3585 - 0.8210

AP4: apical 4-chamber; AP2: apical two-chamber; EF: ejection fraction; EDVi: end-diastolic volume indexed to the body surface area; ESVi: end-systolic volume indexed to the body surface area; E': peak velocity of early diastolic mitral annular motion as determined by pulsed wave Doppler; A': peak velocity of diastolic mitral annular motion as determined by pulsed wave Doppler; FS: fractional shortening; GCS: Global Circumferential Strain; GLS: Global Longitudinal Strain; LA:Ao: left atrium-to-aorta ratio; LVIDd_n: normalized left ventricular internal dimension at end-diastole; LVIDs_n: normalized left ventricular internal dimension at end-systole; MAPSEi: mitral annular plane systolic excursion indexed to the body surface area; S': peak velocity of systolic mitral annular motion as determined by pulsed wave Doppler; SM: Simpson method; TMAD: Tissue Motion Annular Displacement.

Pre	7d	21d	60d	120d	180d
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N=25 • ECO • ECG • SBP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N=23 • ECO • ECG • SBP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N=21 • ECO • ECG • SBP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N=19 • ECO • ECG • SBP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N= 15 • ECO • ECG • SBP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N=12 • ECO • ECG • SBP

Figure 1 - Schematic representation of follow-up assessments and number of dogs before chemotherapy initiation (pre) and 7 days (7d), 21d, 60d, 120d and 180d after the first application of doxorubicin.

N: number of animals in each group; ECO: echocardiography; ECG: electrocardiography; SBP: systolic blood pressure.

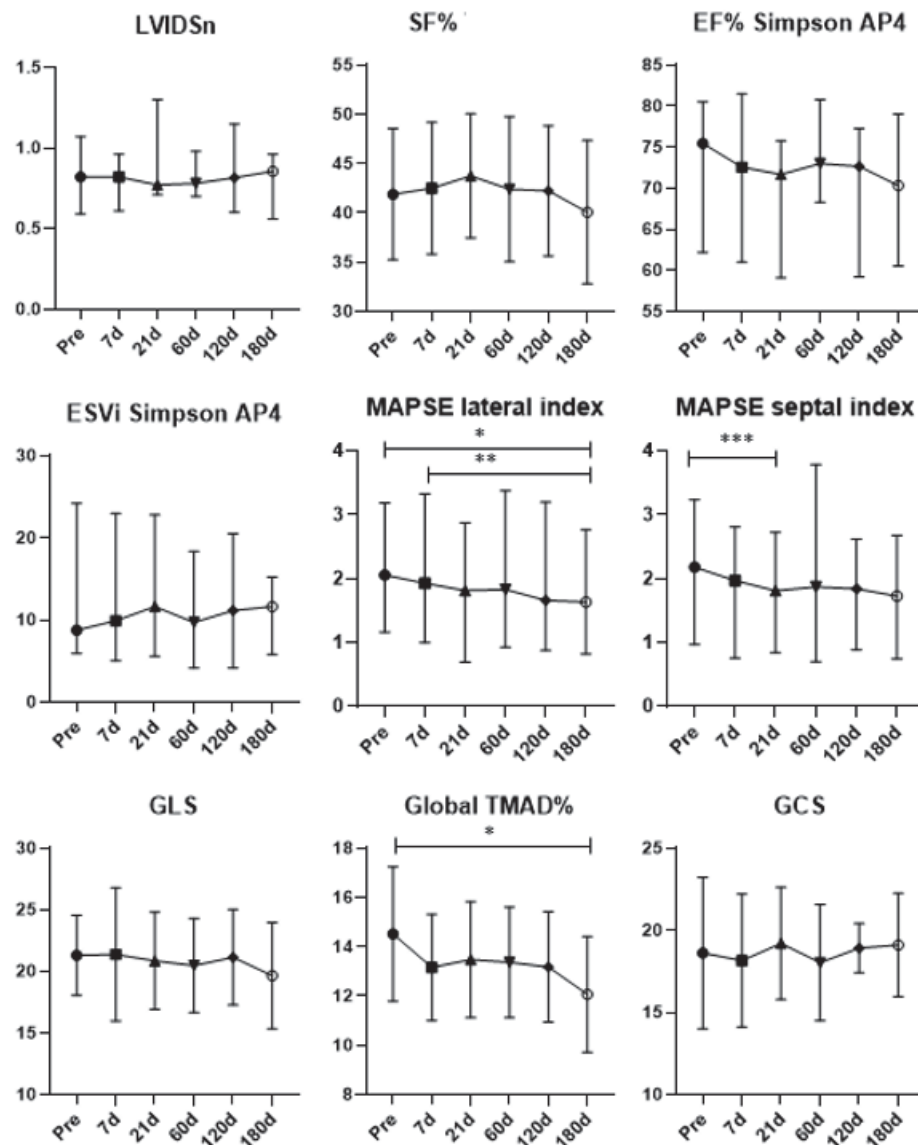


Figure 2 - Graphs representing the main echocardiographic variables of systolic function compared over time from the paired analysis of the 12 animals that reached the end of the study. The differences between the groups are represented by the bars, in which (*) represents the difference between the pre-chemotherapy and 180-day assessment, (**) between the 7-day and 180-day assessment, and (***) between the pre- and 21-day assessment.

AP4: apical 4-chamber; AP2: apical two-chamber; EF: ejection fraction; FS: fractional shortening; GCS: Global Circumferential Strain; GLS: Global Longitudinal Strain; LVIDSn: normalized left ventricular internal dimension at end-systole; MAPSEi: mitral annular plane systolic excursion indexed to the body surface area; TMAD: Tissue Motion Annular Displacement.

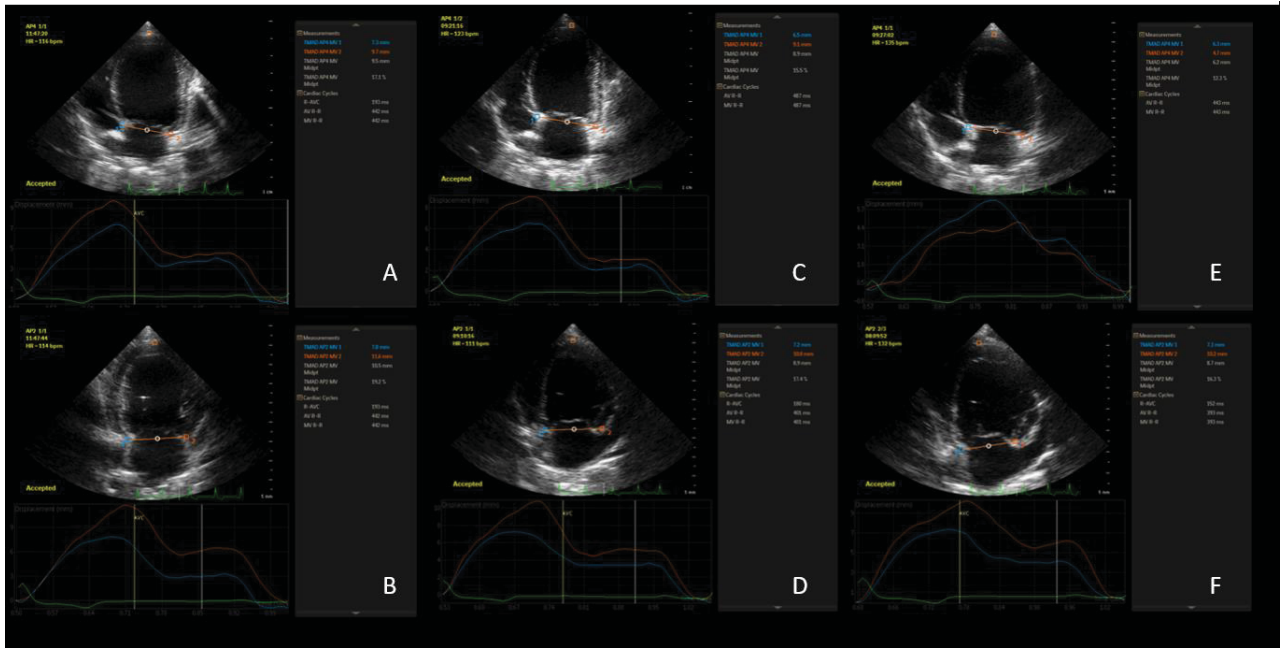


Figure 3 – Echocardiographic images of the tissue motion annular displacement (TMAD) technique of a Fox Terrier dog with lymphoma before the start of the CHOP chemotherapy protocol (A,B), 120 days (C, D) and 180 days (E,F) after the first application of doxorubicin, showing a progressive reduction in tissue displacement of the mitral annulus.

1 **4 Longitudinal assessment of global and segmental right ventricular systolic**
2 **function in dogs undergoing chemotherapy with doxorubicin**

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13

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18

19 **Running head:** Cardiotoxicity on the right ventricle in dogs undergoing
20 chemotherapy with doxorubicin.

21 **4.1 Abstract**

22 *Introduction:* Left ventricular function is an important factor evaluated in the
23 investigation of cardiotoxicity in patients undergoing chemotherapy with doxorubicin.
24 However, human studies show that global cardiac function can be compromised, and
25 right ventricular (RV) function may have the potential to be an early marker of
26 myocardial dysfunction in cardio-oncology patients.

27 *Animals:* 25 dogs with cancer undergoing chemotherapy with doxorubicin as a single
28 agent or in combination with other chemotherapeutic drugs.

29 *Methods:* Prospective and longitudinal study. Dogs underwent conventional
30 echocardiography and speckle tracking analysis before chemotherapy (day 0), 7
31 days, 21 days, 60 days, 120 days and 180 days after the first administration of
32 doxorubicin for morphometric and functional assessment of the RV.

33 *Results:* 12 of 25 dogs completed all evaluations of the study. A reduction in TAPSEi
34 values ($P<0.001$) was observed progressively from the 60 days assessment, as well
35 as a reduction in S' wave ($P=0.036$) at 120 days and FAC ($P=0.04$), global
36 longitudinal strain (GLS) ($P=0.002$) and TMAD ($P=0.019$) at 180d when compared to
37 the initial evaluation. GLS and TMAD were the only echocardiographic parameters
38 that reduced to median values below the widely used normality reference. No
39 differences were observed in RV morphometric measurements ($P>0.05$).

40 *Conclusions:* A subclinical reduction in right ventricular function in dogs undergoing
41 chemotherapy with doses considered safe of doxorubicin. Speckle tracking
42 techniques, although they were not early in the detection of reduced function, proved
43 to be important in the punctual assessment of these patients.

44 *Key words:* cardiotoxicity, echocardiography, oncology, tmad, speckle tracking.

45

46 **4.2 Abbreviation list**

ACVIM	American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine
BSA	body surface area
BW	body weight
CD	cumulative dose
CHOP	doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, vincristine and prednisone
DoxoCarbo	doxorubicin and carboplatin
FAC	fractional area change
GLS	global longitudinal strain
TAPSEi	tricuspid annular plane systolic excursion indexed to the body surface area
ROI	region of interest
RV	right ventricular
SBP	systolic blood pressure
TMAD	tissue motion annular displacement

47

48 **4.3 Introduction**

49 Doxorubicin is an anthracycline widely used in several chemotherapy
50 protocols in humans and dogs [1,2]. However, by mechanisms not yet fully
51 understood, its administration is related to dose-dependent cardiotoxicity [3]. Early
52 detection of cardiotoxicity is a key approach that can affect outcomes and is directly
53 linked to cardio-oncological therapeutic management in humans [4].

54 Left ventricular function is one of the main parameters evaluated to detect
55 cardiotoxicity in dogs and its dysfunction may be present in a subclinical form or

56 resulting in left congestive heart failure [5,6]. However, little is known about right
57 ventricular (RV) function in these patients. Preliminary studies in humans and
58 experimental models show that the right ventricle is also affected [7,8,9,10,11], and
59 may occur before left ventricular dysfunction [12]. Therefore, an echocardiographic
60 evaluation of this chamber can provide early information on anthracycline-induced
61 cardiotoxicity [10].

62 Furthermore, RV function has a prognostic implication in patients with or
63 without LV systolic dysfunction in various settings in humans [13,14,15,16] and dogs
64 [17,18,19], but there are limited data on the effect of anthracyclines on the RV. There
65 are several studies evaluating the performance of the left ventricle in dogs
66 undergoing chemotherapy with doxorubicin [6,20,21], however, to our knowledge, no
67 study has specifically evaluated RV performance in these patients. Therefore, this
68 study aimed to longitudinally evaluate the function of the right ventricle of dogs
69 undergoing chemotherapy with doxorubicin, using conventional echocardiography
70 and speckle tracking echocardiography.

71

72 **4.4 MATERIALS AND METHODS**

73 ***Animals***

74 This is a prospective and longitudinal study in which dogs with different types
75 of neoplasia treated at the oncology sector of the at a veterinary teaching facility and
76 at a private veterinary hospital between February 2019 and March 2021, which
77 received at least one dose of doxorubicin were included. This study was approved by
78 the Institutional Animal Use Committee (protocol 099/2018) and complied with the
79 National Institutes of Health Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals and
80 all owners gave formal consent prior to the animal being enrolled on the study.

81 The chemotherapy protocol was determined by the institution's oncology
82 service and dogs that received chemotherapy with doxorubicin alone or in
83 combination with other drugs were selected. All animals were submitted to an
84 evaluation before (day 0) the start of the chemotherapy protocol and 7, 21, 60, 120
85 and 180 days after the first application of doxorubicin.

86 In all visits the dogs were submitted to a complete physical examination,
87 echocardiographic examination, at least 3 minutes of computerized
88 electrocardiography^a to determine heart rate and cardiac rhythm and non-invasive
89 systolic blood pressure (SBP) measurement^b as previously recommended [22].

90 Dogs that had systolic dysfunction, cardiomegaly, arrhythmias (except
91 arrhythmias of sinus origin), congenital heart diseases, cardiac neoplasms,
92 pulmonary hypertension, pericardial effusion, systemic arterial hypertension
93 (SBP>160 mmHg), systemic arterial hypotension (SBP <80 mmHg), that received
94 medications for the cardiovascular system, such as pimobendan or whose owner
95 does not formally agree with the procedure by signing the informed consent form
96 were excluded from the study.

97 **Conventional Echocardiography**

98 All echocardiographic exams^c were performed with no sedation, by an
99 experienced observer (MW), with unsedated dogs in left and right lateral
100 recumbency, as recommended by the Echocardiography Committee of the Specialty
101 of Cardiology of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) [23].

102 For the echocardiographic evaluation of the right ventricle that will be
103 described, an apical four-chamber view optimized for the right ventricle was
104 performed.

105 The morphological evaluation of the right ventricle was performed in two-

106 dimensional mode with the following measurements, obtained in systole and diastole:
107 internal basal diameter (measured immediately below the tricuspid annulus, from the
108 free wall to the interventricular septum); mean diameter (in the medial third of the
109 right ventricle); and length, from the ventricular apex to the tricuspid annular plane,
110 as previously described [24]. All morphometric measurements were indexed by body
111 surface area (BSA) using the following formula:

$$112 \quad \text{BSA} = K \times (\text{body weight (BW) in grams}^{2/3}) \times 10^{-4}$$

113 $K = \text{constant (10.1 for dogs)}$

114 To assess right ventricular systolic function by conventional echocardiography,
115 the following parameters were obtained: the tricuspid annulus systolic excursion
116 (TAPSE), which was obtained with the M-mode cursor on the tricuspid annulus in the
117 region of the RV free wall and TAPSEi was calculated by TAPSE indexed by the
118 BSA; the right ventricular fractional area change (FAC) was calculated as the
119 percentage difference between the RV systolic and diastolic area; and the S' wave,
120 which was obtained with the tissue Doppler cursor positioned at the junction of the
121 tricuspid plane with the RV free wall.

122 Right ventricular diastolic function was evaluated with pulsed Doppler in the
123 transtricuspid flow, determining the early (Et) and late (At) diastolic peak velocities,
124 and the Et:At ratio, and also by tissue Doppler, measuring the early (Et') and late
125 (At') RV diastolic velocities, with the cursor positioned in the tricuspid annulus on the
126 free wall of the right ventricle.

127

128 **Speckle tracking Echocardiography**

129 Two-dimensional images of the apical 4-chamber view optimized for the right
130 ventricle were obtained for at least 5 cardiac cycles for further off-line analysis of

131 speckle tracking techniques^d.

132 *Global longitudinal strain (free wall)*

133 The global longitudinal strain (GLS) of the RV was obtained with an adaptation
134 of the software prepared for longitudinal strain 4 chambers of the left ventricle. Three
135 regions of interest (ROI) were defined by the operator: RV septal annulus, RV lateral
136 annulus and RV apex. The software automatically starts tracking each myocardial
137 segment and manual corrections were made if necessary. Only the three segments
138 (apical, middle and basal) of the RV free wall were considered and the GLS of the
139 free wall was determined an average of the deformation of these three segments.

140 *Tissue motion annular displacement*

141 The RV TMAD was also obtained with a software adaptation for the TMAD
142 apical 4 chamber of the left ventricle. For the analysis, three ROIs were determined
143 by the operator, two of them in the septal and lateral region of the tricuspid annulus
144 and the third in the epicardial region of the apex of RV. The TMAD was terminated as
145 the displacement in mm of the midpoint, created virtually between the two ROIs of
146 the tricuspid annulus, towards the third point and as a percentage of the
147 displacement of the midpoint in relation to the length of the right ventricle (global
148 TMAD%). The global TMAD in mm was indexed in by BSA (mm/m^2) as previously
149 described [25].

150

151 **4.5 Statistical Analysis^e**

152 The Shapiro-Wilk test was used to investigated data normality. Parametric
153 data are represented by mean and standard deviation and non-parametric by median
154 and quartile interval. The differences between groups in evaluated times were
155 compared with ANOVA, followed by the post hoc Tukey's multiple comparisons test

156 (in data with normal distribution) and using Kruskal-Wallis test followed by Dunn's
157 multiple comparisons test (non-parametric approach). A paired analysis of the 12
158 dogs that completed all the evaluations. For this, the test ANOVA. followed by the
159 post hoc Tukey's multiple comparisons test was used for the parametric data, and
160 Friedman test followed by Dunn's multiple comparisons test to non-parametric data.
161 The variables sex and rhythm were evaluated using Fisher's test and the Chi-Square
162 test was performed to compare the difference between the number of animals at
163 different times of evaluation.

164 To investigate the correlation of the echocardiographic parameters with
165 cumulative dose (CD) of doxorubicin, Pearson (for the parametric data), and
166 Spearman (for non-parametric data) tests were use. T test or the Mann-Whitney test
167 were used to compare the echocardiographic variables between the different
168 chemotherapy protocols [doxorubicin with carboplatin (DoxoCarbo) and doxorubicin
169 with cyclophosphamide, vincristine and prednisone (CHOP)].

170 A comparison was made between the echocardiographic variables of the
171 group that survived with the group that died and receiver operating characteristic
172 (ROC) curves were performed to determine the cut-off values with the best
173 combination of sensitivity and specificity of the variables to differentiate this groups.
174 Kaplan-Meier curves were used to assess the prognostic value of this variables for
175 the all-cause mortality. Breslow's test was used to assess differences between
176 curves. A value of $P < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant.

177

178 **4.6 RESULTS**

179 A total of 32 dogs were selected for this study. However, 7 were excluded from
180 the analyzes due to the presence of cardiac disease requiring treatment with

181 pimobendan (endocardiosis stage ACVIM B2) (N=1), owner withdrawal (N=5) and
182 the development of intracardiac neof ormation during the study (N=1). The selected
183 dogs comprised of Crossbreed (N=9), Golden Retriever (N=3), Poodle (N=3),
184 Dachshund (N=2), Lhasa Apso (N=2), Rottweiler, Schnauzer, German Shepherd,
185 Pinscher, Fox Terrier and English Bulldog (n=1 each). Of these, 13 females and 12
186 males, most of them neutered (N=18), aged from 2 to 16 years (median: 10 years;
187 mean: 9.9 years); weighting (median: 7.9 kg; mean: 12.7 kg).

188 Of the 25 dogs recruited, 13 died during the course of the study and 12
189 completed all assessments (pre-dox, 7d, 21d, 60d, 120d and 180d), and although the
190 number of dogs is smaller in each evaluation, there was no difference (P=0.998)
191 between the number of animals at different times of analysis.

192 Doxorubicin was used as a single agent (N=5), associated with carboplatin
193 (N=10) or associated with cyclophosphamide, vincristine and prednisone (CHOP
194 protocol) (N=10), depending on the protocol that was determined by the oncology
195 sector. The established dose of doxorubicin was 30 mg/m² for dogs ≥15 kg and 1
196 mg/kg for dogs <15 kg with an infusion time of 20 to 30 minutes. For standardization,
197 the milligram per kg was used in this study. Total CD of dox of 12 dogs that
198 completed all assessments range from 3.45 mg/kg to 5 mg/kg (median:4 mg/kg;
199 mean:4.26 mg/kg). Lymphoma was the most common neoplasm, affecting 10 of the
200 25 dogs, followed by mammary adenocarcinoma (n=10), mesothelioma,
201 leiomyosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, melanoma and inflammatory carcinoma (n=1
202 each).

203 In terms of heart rhythm, sinus arrhythmia (N=14/56%) was the most found,
204 followed by sinus rhythm (N=10/40%) and sinus tachycardia (N=1/4%). Only one dog
205 had ventricular arrhythmias (single and paired complexes) at reassessment 60 days

206 after the first dose of doxorubicin. Of the 25 dogs included in the study, 4 had
207 degenerative disease of the mitral and tricuspid valves and 3 only had mitral valve
208 disease, all with mild valvular insufficiency, without cardiac remodeling and without
209 hemodynamic repercussions (ACVIM Stage B1).

210 General and echocardiographic data of patients who received CHOP and
211 DoxoCarbo protocol were compared. At the end of the study (180d), six dogs
212 received the DoxoCarbo protocol (N=6/50%), five CHOP protocol (N=5/41.7%) and
213 one only doxorubicin (N=1/8.3%). Dogs that received the CHOP protocol were
214 younger (P=0.0013) compared to animals in the DoxoCarbo group, as well as the
215 CHOP group had more males (n=8/80%) than the DoxoCarbo group (N=1/10%) and
216 no differences were found regarding rhythm (P=0.069), body weight (P=0.477), heart
217 rate (P=0.559) and SBP (P=0.308). The Et' wave velocity (P=0.028) was higher in
218 dogs than in the CHOP group than in the DoxoCarbo group in the pre-chemotherapy
219 evaluation and at the end of the study (180d), the animals in the DoxoCarbo group
220 presented S' wave values lower than the CHOP group (P=0.0007).

221 The comparison of the evolution of the data over time was performed with a
222 non-paired analysis of all animals (N=25), as well as the patients who received the
223 CHOP (N=10) and DoxoCarbo(N=10) protocol were also evaluated separately. In
224 addition, a paired evaluation of the 12 animals that reached the end of the study was
225 performed.

226 The unpaired analysis of all dogs revealed a reduction in the values of GLS
227 (P=0.0020), global TMAD% (P=0.0016), FAC (P=0.0012) and less deformation of the
228 basal segment of the RV free wall (P=0.0009) at 180 days when compared to the
229 pre-chemotherapy evaluation (Table 1). A drop in S' wave velocity was detected at
230 the assessment of 120d (P=0.0045) and 180d (P=0.0148) compared to the initial

231 examination. In addition, a progressive reduction in TAPSEi values was observed at
232 60d (P=0.019), 120d (P=0.0009) and 180d (P=0.001) when compared to day 0
233 (Table 2; Figure 1).

234 No variables differed over time in patients receiving CHOP protocol. However,
235 patients who received the DoxoCarbo protocol demonstrated a reduction in the S'
236 wave (P=0.044) and TAPSEi (P=0.032) at 120d, and less deformation of the basal
237 segment of the right ventricle (P=0.0041) at 180 days when compared to assessment
238 before treatment.

239 In the paired analysis of the 12 dogs that completed the study, a reduction in
240 the values of GLS (P=0.011), FAC (P=0.013), TAPSEi (P=0.007), as well as a
241 reduction in the deformation of the RV basal segment (P=0.046) at 180d was
242 observed. No significant changes were found morphometric measurements and
243 parameters related to diastolic function of the RV in any of the assessments (P>0.05)
244 (Table 2).

245 Age showed a negative correlation with the Et wave (P=0.038; R=-0.41) and
246 with the Et' wave (P<0.0001; R=-0.75). Interestingly, the cumulative dose of
247 doxorubicin showed a positive correlation with the At wave (P=0.044; R=0.59)

248 None of the patients in this study developed signs of right cardiac heart failure
249 (ascites, limb edema, effusions, dyspnea, tachypnea) or died due to cardiac
250 alteration. The most echocardiographic parameters were not able to accurately
251 predict all-cause mortality in this study (P>0.05). However, FAC with a cut-off value
252 of >47.05%, presented 53.8% sensitivity, 91.6% specificity and AUC 0.71 in
253 differentiating patients who survived from patients who died. The dogs that had an
254 FAC > 47.05% at baseline lived longer (median 335 days) than patients who had a
255 lower value (median 102 days) (P=0.0045) (Table 3; Figure 2).

256 The median survival time of the study animals (N=25) was 201 days. No
257 difference was observed in the survival of patients receiving different protocols, for
258 patients who received a protocol (DoxoCarbo=411 days, CHOP=181.5 days and only
259 Doxo=117 days). There was no difference in patient survival in the different protocols
260 (P=0.139).

261

262 **4.7 DISCUSSION**

263 It is known that left ventricular function can be affected clinically and
264 subclinically in dogs and humans during anthracycline therapy [4,6]. However, the
265 impairment of cardiac function in chemotherapy toxicity is global [26]. Magnetic
266 resonance imaging study shows lower muscle mass, diffuse interstitial fibrosis and
267 RV atrophy on a scale similar to that of the left ventricle in people on anthracycline
268 chemotherapy [11], however, data evaluating right ventricular function in dogs
269 undergoing chemotherapy are scarce. The function of this chamber plays an
270 important role in the prognostic assessment of various diseases in people and dogs
271 [14-19] including in patients with left ventricular dysfunction [27].

272 The RV myocardial anatomy and kinetics are complex. The RV is composed
273 of approximately 75% of the longitudinally arranged fibers located especially in the
274 endocardial region. In addition, it shares the epicardial layer with the left ventricle,
275 which associated with the interventricular septum and pericardium promote
276 ventricular interdependence [28]. Histological evaluation in an experimental study of
277 rats undergoing therapy with anthracyclines showed greater tissue damage to the
278 subendocardial layer of the right ventricle [29], this justifies the fact that
279 echocardiographic techniques that mainly assess the function of longitudinal fibers
280 (such as TAPSE, TMAD, GLS and S' wave) have detected a reduction in myocardial

281 function in this study. In addition, the lower right ventricular muscle mass and thinner
282 walls may support earlier detection of this chamber dysfunction [10].

283 Speckle tracking techniques appear to be less affected by loading conditions
284 than conventional techniques [10] and are shown to be early in the detection of right
285 ventricular myocardial dysfunction in childhood cancer survivors [30]. The results of
286 this research show a reduction in the median RV GLS from 23.2% (pre) to 17.08% at
287 180d with a mean cumulative dose of 4.6 mg/kg, corroborating studies in humans on
288 chemotherapy with anthracyclines in which a reduction in the RV GLS from 16.2% to
289 13.81% [10]. Similar results were also obtained in a longitudinal study of humans
290 evaluated before and 6 months after the start of chemotherapy with doxorubicin, in
291 which a reduction of 22.3% to 20.1% in RV GLS and in FAC from 47% to 42% was
292 observed, with no significant changes in left ventricular ejection fraction at cumulative
293 doses greater than 200 mg/m² [12].

294 The RV TMAD was shown to be reduced in human survivors of childhood
295 cancer and with good correlation with magnetic resonance and three-dimensional
296 echocardiography in a study that did not observe a difference in the values of TAPSE
297 [30]. Interestingly, conventional techniques such as TAPSE and S' wave
298 demonstrated a reduction in myocardial function before the advanced techniques in
299 this study. No patient showed severe systolic dysfunction or clinical cardiotoxicity
300 until the last evaluation (180d), so this reduction can be considered as mild and
301 subclinical. However, an important factor to be considered is that in a punctual
302 evaluation of the patient in the 180d, the values of conventional echocardiographic
303 parameters, such as TAPSE, FAC and S' wave, although they reduced with time,
304 would be considered within the normality of reference values previously suggested
305 and used in routine [31]. On the other hand, speckle tracking techniques (GLS and

306 TMAD) presented a median below the values usually considered as normal [25,31],
307 which would allow detection of reduced right ventricular function in the punctual
308 evaluation of these dogs. This result demonstrates the importance of patient follow-
309 up, the advantage of using advanced techniques in routine, especially in a punctual
310 evaluation of dogs undergoing chemotherapy, and also imposes a questioning of the
311 normality values routinely used for the detection of mild cardiotoxicity in dogs. Similar
312 results were seen in a previous study, in which a progressive subclinical reduction in
313 right ventricular systolic indices (TAPSE, FAC, S' wave) was observed in the
314 longitudinal evaluation of humans undergoing chemotherapy in a short period of time,
315 although still with values within normal ranges [7].

316 In this study, less deformation of the basal segment of the free wall was
317 observed in the RV. Some diseases affect specific regions of the myocardium, for
318 example humans with amyloidosis have greater apical deformation and less basal
319 deformation [32]. Future studies with segmental echocardiographic evaluation and
320 histopathological analysis will be able to clarify whether there is really a greater
321 involvement of the basal fibers with the administration of anthracyclines.

322 Increases in right ventricular [7] and right atrial dimensions have been
323 observed in people receiving anthracyclines [10]. In this study, no differences were
324 found in the morphometric assessment of the right ventricle, probably due to the
325 slight and subclinical reduction in myocardial function.

326 A progressive and subclinical reduction of the E_t'/A_t' ratio is seen in humans
327 on chemotherapy [7] and lower E_t' wave velocity in people who survived childhood
328 cancer treated with anthracyclines [30]. The positive correlation of the A_t wave with
329 the DC of doxorubicin in this study may demonstrate the dose-dependence of this
330 chemotherapy agent influencing diastolic function. In addition, the higher velocity of

331 the Et' wave in the patients in the CHOP group is due to the fact that these patients
332 were younger than the DoxoCarbo group, since age was negatively correlated with
333 the Et wave ($P=0.038$; $R:-0.41$) and with the Et' wave ($P<0.0001$; $R=-0.75$).

334 Only one dog had isolated and paired ventricular premature complexes after
335 doxorubicin administration in this study. An experimental electrophysiological study
336 with rats showed that the administration of doxorubicin causes a heterogeneous
337 increase in ventricular repolarization times, generating local and interregional
338 dispersions, interfering especially with the repolarization of the right ventricle, which
339 has been shown to be more sensitive to doxorubicin than the left ventricle [33].

340 In this study, three dogs had mitral valve degeneration and four had mitral and
341 tricuspid degeneration. It is known that right ventricular function can be affected in
342 dogs with valvular disease [34] and pulmonary hypertension [35]. However, the
343 patients in this study had mild regurgitation without hemodynamic repercussions, a
344 tricuspid regurgitation velocity less than 3 m/s, and a low probability of pulmonary
345 hypertension according to previously established criteria [36]. Previous studies show
346 that right ventricular function is affected in more advanced stages of valvular disease,
347 when heart failure is present (ACVIM stage C) [34], therefore, this does not seem to
348 be a factor that could compromise our results.

349 Studies show that right ventricular function can provide important prognostic
350 information in people and dogs with a variety of diseases [14-19]. Right ventricular
351 strain was a good predictor of dyspnea in a prospective study of people with cancer
352 receiving anthracycline [37], as well as RV volumetric assessment was a good
353 predictor of left ventricular systolic dysfunction in humans on chemotherapy [11]. In
354 this study, most parameters showed poor accuracy in predicting all-cause mortality,
355 this may be due to the fact that none of the patients progressed to clinical

356 cardiotoxicity, significant systolic dysfunction or died from cardiac causes, and also
357 because different protocols and neoplasms are being compared. However, the FAC
358 >47.05%, presented 53.8% sensitivity, 91.6% specificity and AUC 0.71 in
359 differentiating patients who survived from patients who died and dogs with lower FAC
360 at baseline (pre) lived shorter than those with higher values.

361 Several limitations must be considered in this study. The low number of
362 animals is an important factor in the interpretation of results. In addition, the non-
363 standardization of chemotherapy protocols, the inclusion of different types of
364 neoplasia are important points to be considered in the echocardiographic results
365 obtained, as well as in the analysis of survival. In addition, the echocardiographic
366 analysis of the speckle tracking techniques (GLS and TMAD) of the right ventricle
367 were used with an adaptation of the software made for the left ventricle. The
368 detection of arrhythmias may have been underestimated as the rhythm assessment
369 was performed with 3 minutes of ambulatory electrocardiography. A Holter analysis
370 would provide more accurate information about the cardiac rhythm. The lack of a
371 comparative gold standard assessment such as magnetic resonance imaging and
372 histopathological analysis are also limitations to be considered.

373 In conclusion, this study shows a subclinical reduction in right ventricular
374 function in dogs undergoing chemotherapy with doses considered safe of
375 doxorubicin. Speckle tracking techniques, although they were not early in the
376 detection of reduced function, proved to be important in the punctual assessment of
377 these patients, as they presented values lower than those considered normal
378 reference at the time of reduction. New studies with a greater number of animals and
379 standardization of protocols and neoplasms are necessary to evaluate the use of
380 these techniques in the detection of cardiotoxicity in dogs.

381

382 **Conflict of Interest Statement**

383 The authors do not have any conflicts of interest to disclose.

384

385 **Footnotes**386 ^a - TEB ECG PC - Tecnologia Eletrônica Brasileira. São Paulo, Brazil.387 ^b - MedMega DV 6108 - Vascular *Doppler*, 10 MHz. Franca, Brazil.388 ^c - Philips Affiniti 50 ultrasound system equipped with 2-4. 3-8 and 4-12 MHz phased-
389 array transducers. Andover, MA, USA.390 ^d - QLAB Software - automatic cardiac motion quantification (aCMQ)391 ^e - Graphpad prism 5.0 Software

392

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Table 1 – Descriptive data, cumulative dose of doxorubicin and the main echocardiographic variables compared over time in all animals of the study.

	Pre (Day 0)	7d	21d	60d	120d	180d	P
N	25	23	21	19	15	12	0.998
N (CHOP/DoxoCarbo)	10/10/5	10/10/3	10/9/2	9/9/1	7/7/1	5/6/1	0.998
CD of doxorubicin (mg/kg)	0	0.99 (0.88 – 1)	1.09 (0.88 – 2.17)	2.09 (1.74 – 4.3)	3.48 (2.6 – 4)	4.26 (3.45 – 5)	
Et	62.80 (42.50 - 119.0)	60.80 (50.50 - 82.70)	65.30 (45.0 - 85.90)	59.40 (34.0 - 99.40)	58.25 (37.60 - 106.0)	59.75 (42.50 - 76.70)	0.5061
At	67.30 (34.60 - 140.0)	55.90 (38.60 - 101.0)	66.30 (35.70 - 104.0)	70.20 (36.60 - 86.10)	57.65 (41.70 - 83.60)	56.05 (46.0 - 88.80)	0.2096
Et:At	1.14 (0.58 - 1.82)	1.11 (0.62 - 1.69)	1.03 (0.47 - 1.67)	0.80 (0.40 - 1.60)	1.15 (0.60 - 9.0)	1.05 (0.70 - 1.30)	0.7314
S'	17.10 (± 3.48) ^a	15.0 (± 3.34) ^{a,b}	15.10 (± 4.01) ^{a,b}	15.42 (± 3.24) ^{a,b}	12.85 (± 3.12) ^b	13.08 (± 3.03) ^b	0.0036
Et'	10.10 (6.27 - 16.50)	8.95 (4.77 - 17.70)	9.40 (6.17 - 14.70)	8.59 (6.74 - 13.40)	9.24 (4.69 - 14.90)	8.19 (4.67 - 13.90)	0.4374
At'	15.64 (± 3.07)	13.89 (± 3.67)	13.89 (± 3.58)	13.69 (± 2.29)	12.96 (± 2.81)	13.65 (± 2.69)	0.1336
Area_d index	7.61 (4.69 - 40.17)	7.13 (4.60 - 11.79)	7.82 (4.27 - 11.02)	7.84 (5.17 - 11.17)	7.71 (5.33 - 13.13)	7.75 (4.62 - 13.02)	0.8017
Area_s index	3.95 (1.56 - 28.15)	3.86 (2.12 - 7.15)	3.96 (1.86 - 6.46)	3.88 (2.58 - 6.89)	4.10 (3.03 - 8.20)	5.44 (2.65 - 8.28)	0.4306
FAC	52.05 (± 10.48) ^a	46.70 (± 9.57) ^{a,b}	45.89 (± 9.49) ^{a,b}	46.38 (± 12.47) ^{a,b}	42.76 (± 9.56) ^{a,b}	37.07 (± 11.34) ^b	0.004
TAPSEi	7.04 (4.83 - 9.82) ^a	6.44 (4.95 - 8.86) ^{a,b}	6.0 (4.44 - 7.60) ^{a,b}	5.94 (4.39 - 7.76) ^b	5.81 (3.77 - 6.46) ^b	5.57 (4.51 - 6.93) ^b	<0.0001
Basal diameter index	3.79 (1.31 - 15.20)	3.10 (1.57 - 5.83)	3.34 (1.99 - 4.73)	3.45 (1.63 - 5.01)	3.66 (1.71 - 4.92)	3.74 (1.94 - 6.46)	0.631
Medio diameter index	3.25 (1.35 - 11.28)	3.06 (1.58 - 5.87)	3.34 (1.52 - 4.45)	3.26 (1.48 - 5.32)	3.28 (1.67 - 4.94)	3.30 (1.75 - 7.32)	0.964
Length index	5.96 (2.83 - 26.31)	6.30 (2.85 - 11.21)	5.87 (3.19 - 8.15)	6.24 (2.86 - 8.44)	5.99 (2.72 - 10.21)	6.85 (3.04 - 8.95)	0.906
GLS	23.22 (± 5.18) ^a	23.61 (± 4.44) ^a	23.07 (± 3.86) ^a	21.31 (± 5.42) ^{a,b}	20.59 (± 4.89) ^{a,b}	17.08 (± 3.82) ^b	0.002
BIS	21.60 (± 4.27) ^a	22.25 (± 4.96) ^a	20.27 (± 4.59) ^a	19.46 (± 5.83) ^{a,b}	17.89 (± 4.18) ^{a,b}	14.61 (± 4.54) ^b	0.0002
MIS	24.73 (± 7.85)	25.24 (± 5.89)	25.0 (± 5.33)	22.40 (± 7.20)	22.56 (± 6.82)	19.58 (± 4.99)	0.1333
APS	24.88 (± 6.83)	24.48 (± 5.96)	24.56 (± 4.89)	22.88 (± 7.72)	22.39 (± 6.61)	18.25 (± 6.24)	0.063
TMADmm/m²	13.23 (4.02 - 39.25)	12.25 (4.77 - 28.39)	14.24 (4.65 - 21.59)	13.54 (5.97 - 25.11)	11.25 (5.28 - 27.45)	11.33 (4.95 - 22.49)	0.9476
TMAD%	17.79 (± 3.50) ^a	17.55 (± 3.46) ^a	17.62 (± 2.77) ^a	17.80 (± 3.26) ^a	16.55 (± 2.82) ^{a,b}	14.07 (± 3.16) ^b	0.0198

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(N): number of animals in each group; Area_d: RV diastolic area; Area_s: RV systolic area; APS: middle segment of the free wall; BIS: basal segment of the free wall; Et: early diastolic tricuspid inflow velocity; At: late diastolic tricuspid inflow velocity; CD: cumulative dose; Et': peak velocity of early diastolic tricuspid annular motion as determined by pulsed wave Doppler; At': peak velocity of diastolic tricuspid annular motion as determined by pulsed wave Doppler; FAC: fractional area change; GLS: global longitudinal strain; MIS: middle segment of the free wall; TAPSEi: tricuspid annular plane systolic excursion indexed to the body surface area; S': peak velocity of systolic tricuspid annular motion as determined by pulsed wave Doppler; TMAD: Tissue Motion Annular Displacement. Data with normal distribution were expressed by the mean and standard deviation and data with abnormal distribution were expressed by the median and interquartile range. Values with different superscripted letters indicate statistically significant differences between groups and equal letters represents equality between group

Table 2 – Descriptive data. cumulative dose of doxorubicin and the main echocardiographic variables compared over time from the paired analysis of the 12 animals that reached the end of the study.

N (CHOP/DoxoCarbo) CD of doxorubicin (mg/kg)	Pre (Day 0)		7d		21d		60d		120d		180d		P
	12	5/6	12	5/6	12	5/6	12	5/6	12	5/6	12	5/6	
Et	63.30 (50.30 - 91.70)		60.20 (51.90 - 82.70)		65.05 (49.0 - 80.0)		60.85 (34.0 - 75.90)		58.25 (37.60 - 106.0)		59.75 (42.50 - 76.70)		0.4159
At	67.80 (34.60 - 97.50)		58.35 (46.0 - 100.0)		63.65 (35.70 - 84.70)		64.45 (36.60 - 86.10)		56.40 (41.70 - 79.60)		56.05 (46.0 - 88.80)		0.4831
Et:At	1.04 (0.59 - 1.82)	0	1.07 (0.62 - 1.35)	0.98 (0.88 - 1)	1.11 (0.69 - 1.67)	1.06 (0.88 - 1)	0.80 (0.40 - 1.60)	2.12 (1.74 - 3)	1.20 (0.70 - 9.0)	3.52 (2.6 - 4)	1.05 (0.70 - 1.30)	4.26 (3.45 - 5)	0.238
S'	16.34 (± 3.65)		15.94 (± 3.25)		14.37 (± 4.25)		14.78 (± 3.18)		12.86 (± 3.28)		13.08 (± 3.03)		0.0704
Et'	10.35 (7.56 - 16.50)		9.62 (5.65 - 16.40)		8.03 (6.17 - 14.20)		8.71 (6.74 - 13.40)		8.99 (4.69 - 14.90)		8.19 (4.67 - 13.90)		0.310
At'	15.32 (± 3.48)		13.53 (± 3.32)		13.12 (± 3.73)		14.08 (± 2.14)		12.73 (± 2.89)		13.65 (± 2.69)		0.221
Area _d index	7.82 (4.69 - 14.34)		7.52 (4.60 - 11.0)		7.24 (4.27 - 9.57)		7.94 (5.17 - 10.39)		7.72 (5.33 - 13.13)		7.75 (4.62 - 13.02)		0.098
Area _s index	3.61 (1.95 - 6.31)		3.92 (2.12 - 5.25)		3.50 (1.86 - 5.20)		3.89 (3.09 - 6.16)		4.10 (2.58 - 8.20)		5.44 (2.65 - 8.28)		0.169
FAC	55.51 (± 8.72) ^a		47.73 (± 7.93) ^a		48.19 (± 8.88) ^a		46.94 (± 12.58) ^a		43.86 (± 11.46) ^a		37.07 (± 11.34) ^b		0.0131
TAPSEi	6.81 (4.83 - 9.82) ^a		7.03 (5.20 - 8.08) ^a		6.03 (4.44 - 7.60) ^{a,b}		5.97 (4.58 - 7.76) ^{a,b}		5.81 (3.77 - 7.44) ^{a,b}		5.57 (4.51 - 6.93) ^b		0.0079
Basal diameter index	4.0 (1.31 - 5.97)		3.27 (1.57 - 5.16)		3.39 (1.99 - 4.73)		3.73 (1.76 - 4.84)		3.77 (1.71 - 4.92)		3.74 (1.94 - 6.46)		0.283
Medio diameter index	3.33 (1.35 - 6.56)		3.08 (1.58 - 4.86)		3.32 (1.52 - 4.45)		3.58 (1.48 - 5.07)		3.05 (1.67 - 4.94)		3.30 (1.75 - 7.32)		0.6706
Length index	6.10 (2.83 - 11.40)		6.55 (2.85 - 11.21)		5.95 (3.19 - 8.15)		6.70 (2.86 - 8.44)		6.34 (2.72 - 8.90)		6.85 (3.04 - 8.95)		0.502
GLS	21.55 (± 4.08) ^a		22.46 (± 5.19) ^a		22.52 (± 3.97) ^a		20.60 (± 5.17) ^a		20.17 (± 4.80) ^a		17.08 (± 3.82) ^b		0.023
BIS	20.18 (± 2.56) ^a		20.57 (± 4.67) ^a		19.86 (± 4.93) ^{a,b}		18.07 (± 5.98) ^{a,b}		17.38 (± 4.22) ^{a,b}		14.61 (± 4.54) ^b		0.029
MIS	24.18 (± 9.40)		24.99 (± 7.14)		24.0 (± 4.99)		22.63 (± 8.75)		22.07 (± 6.74)		19.58 (± 4.99)		0.347
APS	23.13 (± 6.16)		22.77 (± 7.11)		24.06 (± 4.30)		21.64 (± 6.51)		21.46 (± 6.09)		18.25 (± 6.24)		0.136
TMADmm/m ²	13.04 (4.02 - 28.88)		13.43 (4.77 - 28.39)		14.28 (4.65 - 21.59)		13.51 (5.97 - 18.49)		11.25 (5.28 - 27.45)		11.33 (4.95 - 22.49)		0.605
TMAD%	17.40 (± 3.41)		17.14 (± 4.03)		17.19 (± 3.14)		17.13 (± 1.92)		16.26 (± 2.97)		14.07 (± 3.16)		0.139

536 (N): number of animals in each group; Area_d: RV diastolic area; Areas: RV systolic area; APS: middle segment of the free wall; BIS: basal segment of the free wall; Et: early diastolic tricuspid inflow velocity; At: late diastolic tricuspid inflow velocity; CD: cumulative dose; Et': peak velocity of early diastolic tricuspid annular motion as determined by pulsed wave Doppler; At': peak velocity of diastolic tricuspid annular motion as determined by pulsed wave Doppler; FAC: fractional area change; GLS: global longitudinal strain; MIS: middle segment of the free wall; TAPSEi: tricuspid annular plane systolic excursion indexed to the body surface area; S': peak velocity of systolic tricuspid annular motion as determined by pulsed wave Doppler; TMAD: Tissue Motion Annular Displacement. Data with normal distribution were expressed by the mean and standard deviation and data with abnormal distribution were expressed by the median and interquartile range. Values with different superscripted letters indicate statistically significant differences between groups and equal letters represents equality between group.

Table 3 – Cut-off values from ROC curve analyzes with sensitivity, specificity and AUC to differentiate dogs that survived from those that died during the study.

	Cut-off	Sensitivity %	Specificity %	AUC	95% CI
Et:At	> 1.210	46.15	75	0.5128	0.2747 - 0.7510
S'	> 13.40	100	25	0.6090	0.3824 - 0.8356
Et'	< 9.405	53.85	75	0.5545	0.3184 - 0.7906
At'	> 17.35	46.15	83.33	0.5897	0.3571 - 0.8224
FAC	> 47.05	53.85	91.67	0.7147	0.5017 - 0.9278
TAPSEi	> 6.605	76.92	50	0.5833	0.3476 - 0.8191
GLS	> 23.35	53.85	75	0.6250	0.4006 - 0.8494
BIS	> 23.50	46.15	91.67	0.6186	0.3846 - 0.8526
MIS	> 19.50	84.62	41.67	0.5513	0.3148 - 0.7878
APS	> 34.50	23.08	100	0.5865	0.3582 - 0.8149
TMADmm/m2	> 17.60	92.31	25	0.5288	0.2960 - 0.7616
TMAD%	> 18.95	76.92	41.67	0.5032	0.2681 - 0.7383

APS: middle segment of the free wall; BIS: basal segment of the free wall; Et': peak velocity of early diastolic tricuspid annular motion as determined by pulsed wave Doppler; At': peak velocity of diastolic tricuspid annular motion as determined by pulsed wave Doppler; FAC: fractional area change; GLS: global longitudinal strain; MIS: middle segment of the free wall; TAPSEi: tricuspid annular plane systolic excursion indexed to the body surface area; S': peak velocity of systolic tricuspid annular motion as determined by pulsed wave Doppler; TMAD: Tissue Motion Annular Displacement.

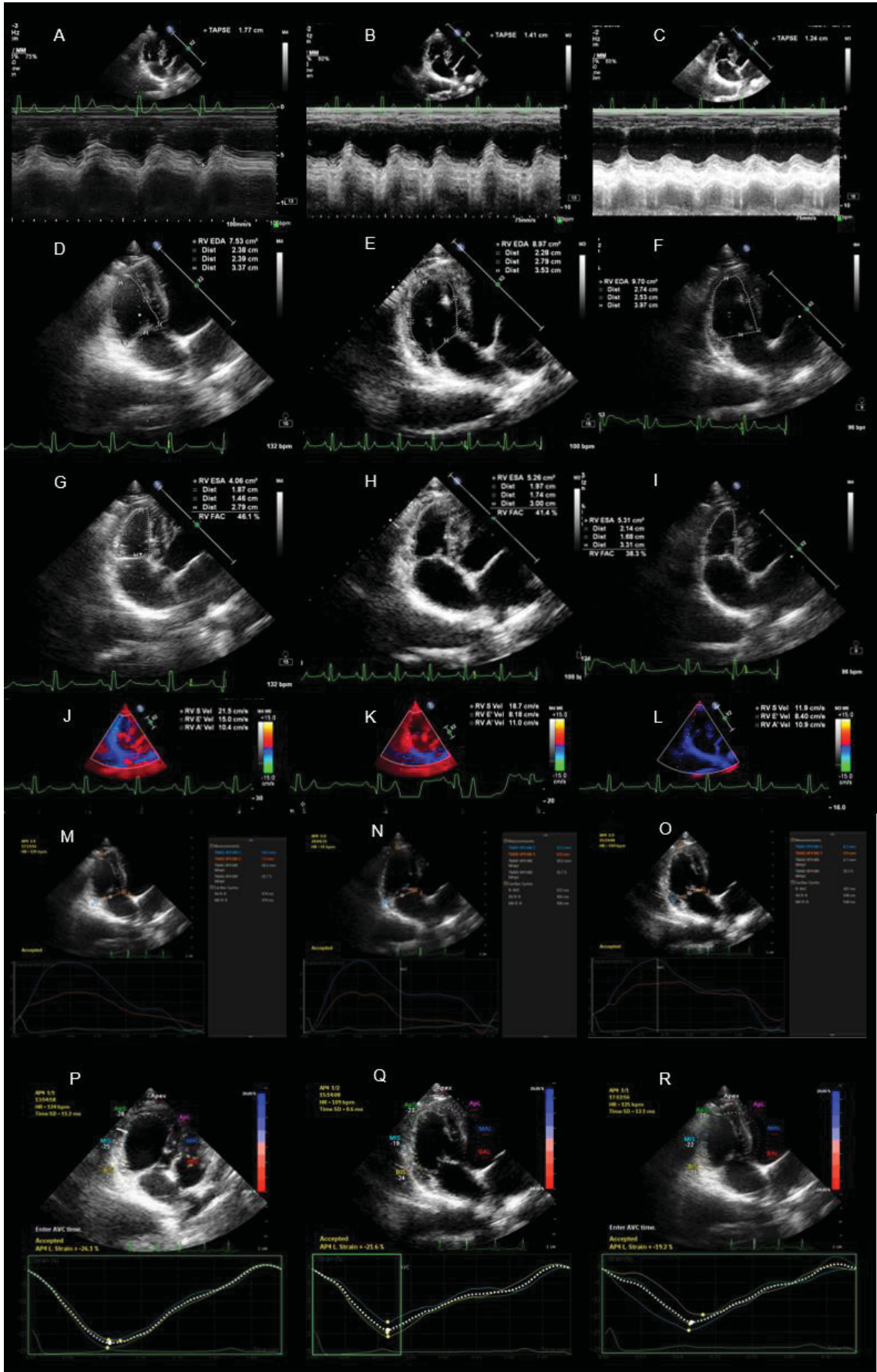


Figure 1 - Image showing echocardiographic evolution of a male golden retriever dog

with multicentric lymphoma undergoing chemotherapy with CHOP protocol. Images show the TAPSE (A,B,C), the morphometric indices and area in diastole (D,E,F) and in systole (G,H,I), FAC (G,H,I), S' wave (J,K,L), TMAD (M,N,O) and GLS (P,Q,R) pre-chemotherapy (A,D,G,J,M,P), 120 days after starting doxorubicin (B,E,H,K,N,Q) and in the evaluation at 180 days (C,F,I,L,O,R). Note the progressive reduction in systolic function parameters.

FAC: fractional area change; GLS: global longitudinal strain; TAPSE: tricuspid annular plane systolic excursion; S': peak velocity of systolic tricuspid annular motion as determined by pulsed wave Doppler; TMAD: Tissue Motion Annular Displacement.

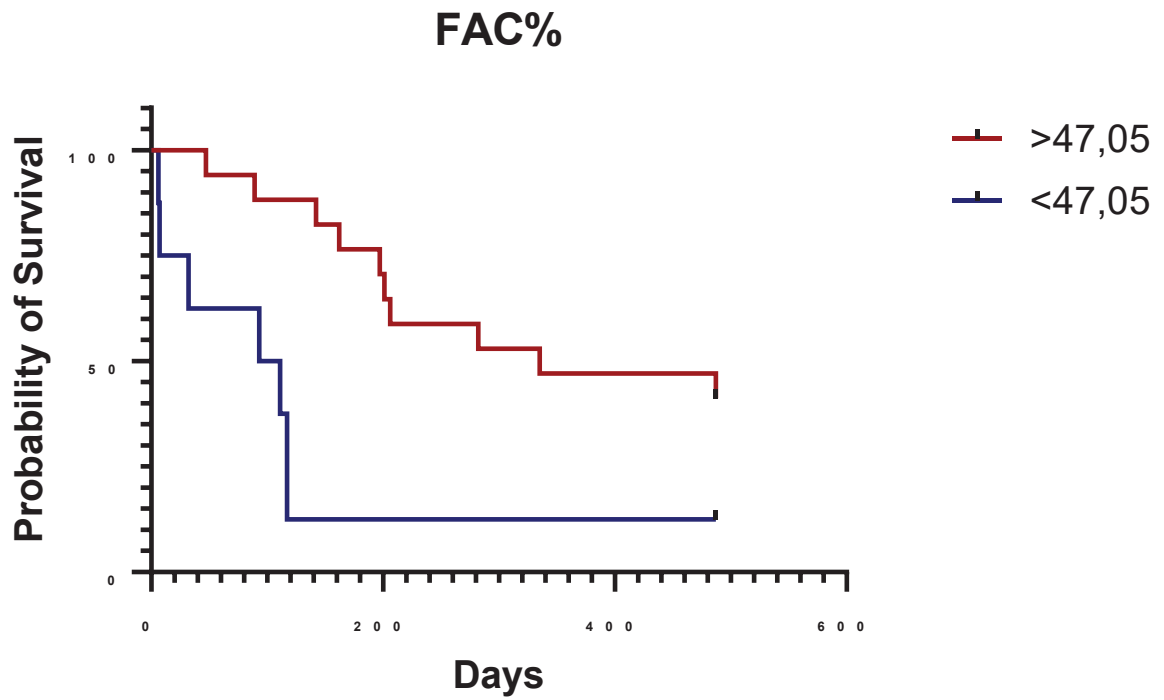


Figure 2 - Kaplan Meyer curve showing that dogs that had an FAC > 47.05% lived longer (median 335 days) than patients who had a lower FAC value (median 102 days) ($P=0.0045$) in the initial assessment (pre).

FAC: fractional area change

5 VITA

Médica veterinária graduada pela Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Minas Gerais (PUC MG), Campus Poços de Caldas no ano de 2013.

Concluiu o curso de Aperfeiçoamento em Cardiologia Veterinária pela Unesp, Campus Jaboticabal em 2014.

Realizou o programa de Aprimoramento Profissional em Serviço na área de Clínica Médica de Pequenos Animais na Faculdade de Jaguaruna no ano de 2015.

Concluiu o curso de Pós-graduação *lato sensu* – especialização – em Cardiologia Veterinária, pela Universidade Cruzeiro do Sul (ANCLIVEPA SP) em 2017.

Concluiu como bolsista integral o curso de Pós-graduação *lato sensu* em Clínica Médica e Cirúrgica de Pequenos Animais pelo Centro Universitário Cesmac (EQUALIS) no ano de 2020.

Obteve o título de Mestre pelo Programa de Pós-graduação em Ciências Veterinárias da Universidade Federal do Paraná (UFPR), com a linha de pesquisa Medicina Experimental e Comparada no ano de 2018.

Cursou o Doutorado no Programa de Pós-graduação em Ciências Veterinárias da Universidade Federal do Paraná (UFPR), com a linha de pesquisa Medicina Experimental e Comparada no ano de 2018 a 2022.

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7 ANEXOS

ANEXO 1 – CERTIFICADO DA COMISSÃO DE ÉTICA NO USO E EXPERIMENTAÇÃO DE ANIMAIS



UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO PARANÁ
SETOR DE CIÊNCIAS AGRÁRIAS
COMISSÃO DE ÉTICA NO USO DE ANIMAIS

CERTIFICADO

Certificamos que o protocolo número 099/2018, referente ao projeto “**Avaliação da função miocárdica biventricular por ecocardiografia convencional e speckle tracking em cães submetidos à quimioterapia com doxorubicina**”, sob a responsabilidade **Marlos Gonçalves Sousa** – que envolve a produção, manutenção e/ou utilização de animais pertencentes ao filo Chordata, subfilo Vertebrata (exceto o homem), para fins de pesquisa científica ou ensino – encontra-se de acordo com os preceitos da Lei nº 11.794, de 8 de Outubro, de 2008, do Decreto nº 6.899, de 15 de julho de 2009, e com as normas editadas pelo Conselho Nacional de Controle da Experimentação Animal (CONCEA), e foi aprovado pela COMISSÃO DE ÉTICA NO USO DE ANIMAIS (CEUA) DO SETOR DE CIÊNCIAS AGRÁRIAS DA UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO PARANÁ - BRASIL, com grau 2 de invasividade, em reunião de 05/12/2018.

Vigência do projeto	Fevereiro/2019 até Fevereiro/2022
Espécie/Linhagem	<i>Canis familiaris</i> (cão)
Número de animais	150
Peso/Idade	Variável/Variável
Sexo	Macho e fêmea
Origem	Hospital Veterinário da Universidade Federal do Paraná, Curitiba, Paraná, Brasil

CERTIFICATE

We certify that the protocol number 099/2018, regarding the project “**Assessment of the biventricular myocardial function by conventional and speckle tracking ecocardiography in dogs submitted to doxorubicine chemotherapy**” under **Marlos Gonçalves Sousa** supervision – which includes the production, maintenance and/or utilization of animals from Chordata phylum, Vertebrata subphylum (except Humans), for scientific or teaching purposes – is in accordance with the precepts of Law nº 11.794, of 8 October, 2008, of Decree nº 6.899, of 15 July, 2009, and with the edited rules from Conselho Nacional de Controle da Experimentação Animal (CONCEA), and it was approved by the ANIMAL USE ETHICS COMMITTEE OF THE AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO PARANÁ (Federal University of the State of Paraná, Brazil), with degree 2 of invasiveness, in session of 05/12/2018.

Duration of the project	February/2019 until February/2022
Specie/Line	<i>Canis familiaris</i> (canine)
Number of animals	150
Weight/Age	Variable /Variable
Sex	Male and Female
Origin	Veterinary Hospital of Federal University of Paraná, Curitiba, Brazil

Curitiba, 05 de dezembro de 2018

Chayane da Rocha

Chayane da Rocha

Coordenadora CEUA-SCA