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STELLINGEN

Speckle tracking strain derived global peak strain parameters are not influenced by age. *(this thesis)*

Reproducibility of speckle tracking strain derived parameters describing intraventricular time-differences in healthy children is poor which prohibits their use. *(this thesis)*

Regardless of the type of congenital heart defect, right ventricular performance remains impaired up to one year after surgical correction for a congenital heart defect using cardiopulmonary bypass. *(this thesis)*

Left ventricular systolic performance remains more persistently impaired in coarctation patients who undergo repair in the neonatal period versus non-neonatal repair. *(this thesis)*


Quantification of systolic right ventricular function should become a routine measurement in postoperative ventricular septal defect patients. *(Koestenberger M, et al. Impairment of tricuspid annular plane systolic excursion and tricuspid annular peak systolic velocity after ventricular septal defect correction (Letter to the editor). Eur J Cardiothorac Surg 2013.)*

The right ventricle is particularly susceptible to the problems of cardiopulmonary bypass and intraoperative ischaemia. *(Dhillon R, et al. Transcatheter closure of atrial septal defect preserves right ventricular function. Heart 2002;87:461-465)*

When life gives you lemons, make lemonade. *(Elbert Hubbard)*

Education is the path from cocky ignorance to miserable uncertainty. *(Mark Twain)*

Even a perfectionist does not win from all the rules of a journal. *(own experience)*

If it takes a lot of words to say what you have in mind, give it more thought. *(Dennis Roth)*