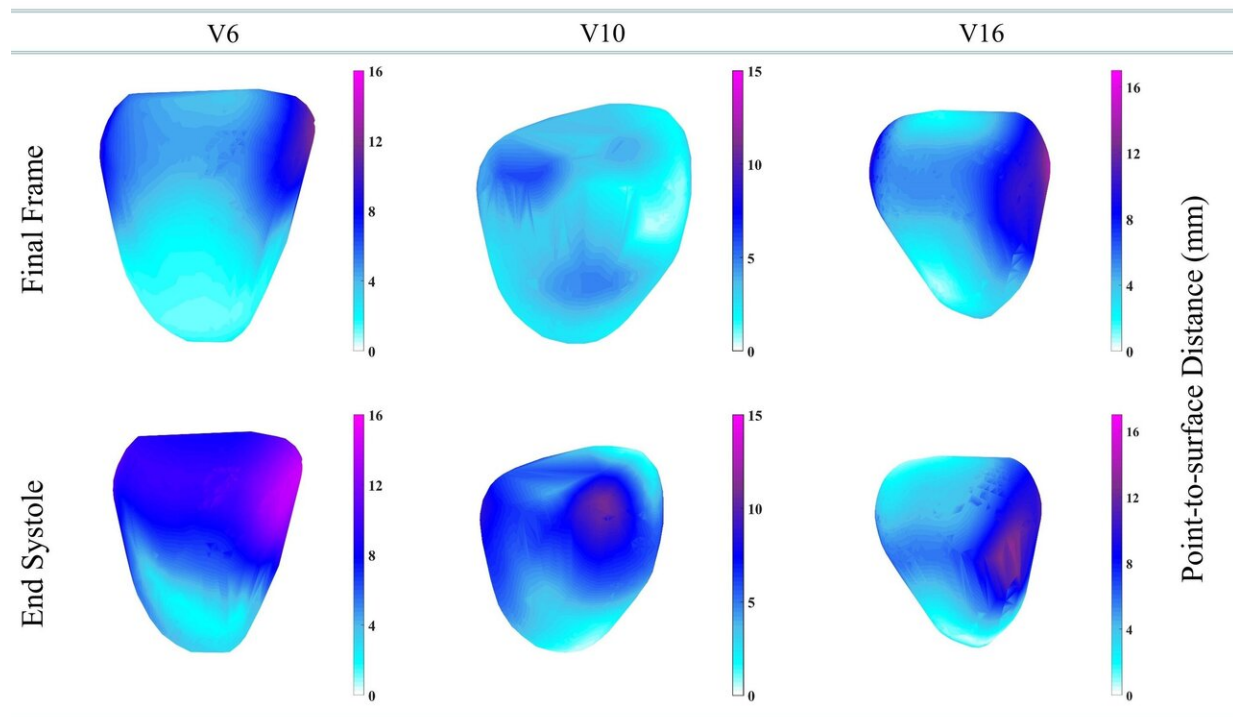


# New MRI computing technique can spot scar muscles of heart without damaging kidneys

August 28 2019



Displacement comparison at the end-systolic frame and final frame. The three patients (V6, V10, V16) with different left-ventricle walls are shown. Point-to-surface distance is a measure to estimate the distance of a point from the reference surface. Credit: WMG University of Warwick

3-D MRI computing can measure strain in the heart using image registration method. Traditional method involves giving the patient a

dose of gadolinium which can affect the kidney, researchers at WMG, University of Warwick have found.

MRIs are used to diagnose cardiac disease such as cardiomyopathy, [heart attacks](#), irregular heartbeats and other [heart disease](#).

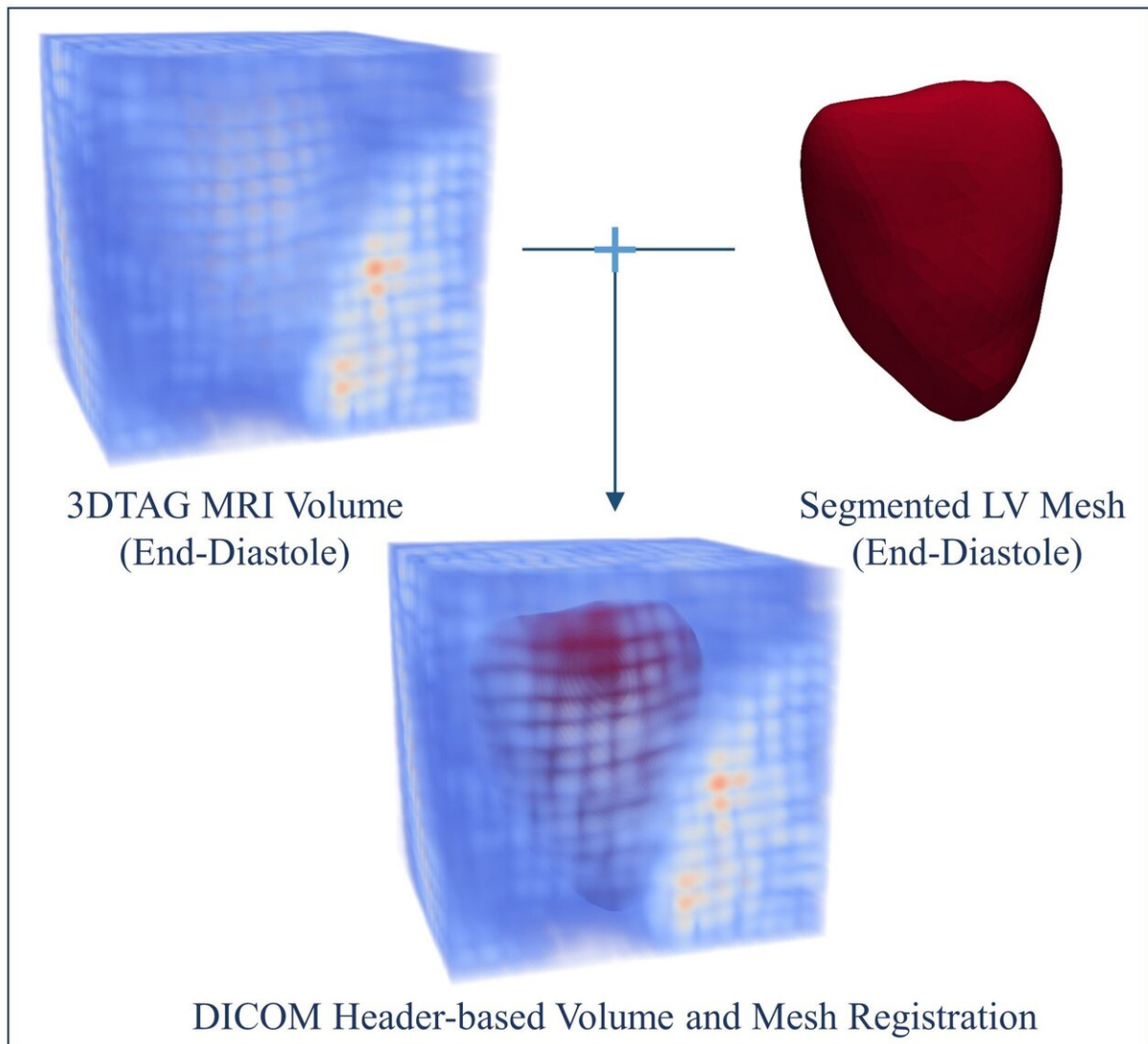
Traditionally when a patient goes for an MRI scan they are given a dose of gadolinium, which reacts the magnetic field of the scanner to produce an image of the protons in the metal realigning with the magnetic field. The faster the protons realign, the brighter the image features and can show where the dead muscles are in the heart and what the diagnosis is.

The dose of gadolinium can have detrimental effects to other parts of the body, particularly the risk of kidney failure.

A new 3-D MRI computing technique developed by scientists in WMG at the University of Warwick, published today, 28th August, in the journal *Scientific Reports* titled 'Hierarchical Template Matching for 3-D Myocardial Tracking and Cardiac Strain Estimation' focuses on Hierarchical Template Matching (HTM) technique. Which involves:

- A numerically stable technique of LV myocardial tracking
- A 3-D extension of local weighted mean function to transform MRI pixels
- A 3-D extension of Hierarchical Template Matching model for myocardial tracking problems

Therefore meaning there is no need for gadolinium reducing the risk of damage to other organs.



The 3DTag MRI volume, and segmented LV mesh. Credit: WMG University of Warwick

Professor Mark Williams, from WMG at the University of Warwick comments:

"Using 3-D MRI computing technique we can see in more depth what is happening to the heart, more precisely to each heart muscles, and

diagnose any issues such as remodelling of heart that causes heart failure. The new method avoids the risk of damaging the kidney opposite to what traditional methods do by using gadolinium."

Jayendra Bhalodiya, who conducted the research from WMG, University of Warwick adds:

"This new MRI technique also takes away stress from the patient, as during an MRI the patient must be very still in a very enclosed environment meaning some people suffer from claustrophobia and have to stop the scan, often when they do this they have to administer another dose of the damaging [gadolinium](#) and start again. This technique doesn't require a dosage of anything, as it tracks the heart naturally."

**More information:** *Scientific Reports* (2019). [DOI: 10.1038/s41598-019-48927-2](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-019-48927-2)

Provided by University of Warwick

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