

Drs. Mathai and Hassoun reply

To the Editor:

We thank Drs. Koestenberger and Ravekes for their comments¹. An integral part of validation of a biomarker is the definition of normal (and abnormal) values for the measure. For the tricuspid annular plane systolic excursion (TAPSE), there are few studies that report these data, particularly in adults^{2,3,4}. In general, the existing studies are limited by relatively small sizes. The studies done by Koestenberger and Ravekes and Nunez-Gil and colleagues⁵ involve larger populations of children and adolescents and thus provide a useful reference to which values from diseased populations can be compared. In addition, it also remains to be determined whether TAPSE is a sensitive tool for assessing response to therapy in both adults and children; if so, it could be used as an endpoint in clinical trials of therapeutics. Future studies should focus not only on establishing normative ranges of values of TAPSE in large populations of adults, but also on determining the responsiveness of TAPSE in both adults and children.

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