

# Influence of Type 2 Diabetes and the Sex on the Occurrence of Sub-Clinic Left-Ventricular Diastolic Dysfunction of the Heart

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**Key words:** type 2 diabetes; diabetic cardiomyopathy; subclinical diastolic dysfunction; Doppler echocardiograph analysis; sex.

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**Abbreviations:** AGE – Age; BW – Body weight; BH – Body height; BMI – Body mass index; SBP – Systolic blood pressure; DBP – Diastolic blood pressure; GLIK – Glycaemia; KRE – Creatinemia; TOT-choI – Total cholesterol; LDL-choI – Low density cholesterol; HDL-choI – High density cholesterol; TRI – Triglyceride; LA – Left atrium; LAI – Left atrium index; AO – Aorta; LVEDD – Left ventricular end diastolic dimension; LVESD – Left ventricular end systolic dimension; PWLV – Posterior wall of left ventricular; IVS – Inter Ventricular septum; EF – Ejection fraction of the left ventricular; FS – Fraction of the shortening of the left ventricular; DC-tE – deceleration time of the E-wave; IVR-t – is volumetric relaxation time; LVM – Left ventricular mass; LVMI – Left ventricular mass index.

## Abstract

**Aims:** To test the hypothesis that: the potential of type 2 diabetes, in precipitation of the sub clinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction at the female sex, in absence of high blood pressure disease, coronary disease and other known heart disease, is different in comparison to the male sex.

**Material and Methods:** Prospectively, 180 people with type 2 diabetes were tested, at the ages between 45 and 55, divided into 2 groups: 1) Control group- was comprised of 60 patients (30 male and 30 female), without diabetes, with similar epidemiological-demographic characteristics; 2) Diabetes group - was comprised of 120 patients (60 women and 60 men) with type 2 diabetes. The estimation of the diastolic function of the left ventricular was made by Doppler echocardiograph analysis of the diastolic time intervals, as well as analysis of the model of ventricular filling, shown with a transmitral flow-velocity profile, acquired with a conventional pulsed-wave Doppler.

**Results:** Significant changes between the groups in clinical variables were observed regarding body mass index, low density cholesterol and triglycerides, the variables gotten with the pulsed-wave Doppler of the transmitral flow, and the duration of the isovolumetric relaxation time.

**Conclusions:** In this study, we do not prove the hypothesis that the type 2 diabetes potential in the precipitation of the sub clinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction at the female sex, in absence of coronary disease, blood pressure disease and other well known heart diseases, is different in comparison to the male sex.

## Introduction

Sugar disease (Diabetes mellitus) is responsible for a wide spectrum of cardiovascular diseases. It is a risk

factor for the development of heart failure [1]. In the last decade an increase of prevalence of type 2 diabetes has been noted, and with it cardiovascular complications [2]. In many epidemiological, clinical and experimental studies

the association between diabetes and left ventricular diastolic dysfunction has been proven [2].

The left ventricular diastolic dysfunction is a basic characteristic of diabetic heart disease (diabetic cardiomyopathy), defined as a disease of the myocardium at the sick with diabetes, in absence of coronary disease, blood pressure disease and other well known heart diseases [3], while diastolic dysfunction can be the first stage of diabetic cardiomyopathy, previously belonging to the systolic damages [4, 5], and the diastolic abnormalities at these can bring higher morbidity and mortality [1]. The subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction is proven at the people sick with type 2 diabetes with Doppler-echocardiography and in absence of coronary artery disease and ventricular hypertrophy. Result up until now from the experimental, pathological, epidemiological and clinical studies have shown that sugar disease brings functional and structural changes in the heart regardless of coronary artery disease, high blood pressure disease and other well known heart diseases, and maybe also on the difference in the sexes at the people sick with diabetes [1-5].

The subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction is proven at the people sick with type 2 diabetes with Doppler-echocardiography and in absence of coronary disease, high blood pressure disease and other well known heart diseases, but the distribution still remains unclear. According to many characteristics, cardiovascular diseases are similar between the male and female sexes. But, recently, individual studies show significant differences at a wider specter of cardiovascular incidence. Prevalence of type 2 diabetes in the last two decades is increasing fast at the female sex in comparison to the male sex, and with the, the complications of diabetes. Prevalence of diastolic heart failure is greater at the female sex with type 2 diabetes in comparison to the male sex with type 2 diabetes. Women with type 2 diabetes have a higher risk of death from cardiovascular diseases in comparison to men with type 2 diabetes. Independently from the influence of diabetes in cardiovascular morbidity and mortality, the influence of diabetes and diabetes-sex interaction, in the distribution of subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction at the people sick with type 2 diabetes and in absence of coronary disease, high blood pressure disease and other well known heart diseases, they are not clearly defined and the data is controversial [2, 59, 61-68].

The aims of this study are: 1) Evaluation of the distribution of the subclinical (asymptomatic) left ventricular diastolic dysfunction at the people sick with type 2 diabetes in absence of coronary disease, high blood

pressure disease and other well known heart diseases; 2) Evaluation of the influence of the sex; 3) Evaluation of the influence and duration of diabetes with hypothesis that the potential for type 2 diabetes in the precipitation of the subclinical (asymptomatic) left ventricular diastolic dysfunction at women in absence coronary disease, high blood pressure disease and other well known heart diseases is different in comparison to men.

## Material and Methods

Prospectively tested were 180 sick with type 2 diabetes and the age between 45 and 55, dividing into 2 groups. GROUP 1 (the control group): was comprised of 60 patients (30 women and 30 men) without diabetes with similar epidemiological-demographic characteristics. GROUP 2 (the tested group): was comprised of 120 patients (60 women and 60 men) with type 2 diabetes.

### *Criteria for inclusion*

All patients that participated in this study were informed in detail and were asked to provide written accordance for their voluntary participation in the study. In the study, all sick with type 2 diabetes were included between the ages of 45 and 55, diagnosed in accordance with the criteria of the American Diabetes Association: (if the fasting glucose is  $>7.0$  mmol/L; the level of glycemia in the blood  $>11$  mmol/L-2 hours after the glucose tolerant test);(72); and the sick that were treated with oral antidiabetics.

### *Criteria for exclusion*

From the test excluded were: the sick from type 1 diabetes; the sick that take therapy with insulin; the sick with heart problems acquired or from birth, cardiomyopathies (primary and secondary), heart arrhythmias, atrium-ventricular block of 2-3 degree, the sick with changes in the electrocardiogram, the sick with implanted pacemaker, the sick with is-schemica heart disease, the sick with ventricular hypertrophy, the sick with high blood pressure, the sick with acute and chronic pneumonias, the sick with kidney insufficiency, age under 45 and over 55, the sick with hormonal therapy (estrogen/progesterone) and those sick with difficulties for acquiring an echographic window.

### *Clinical evaluation*

Detailed anamnesis data were taken from each patient and a physical examination was completed. The clinical data include: -age, sex, body weight and height,

body mass index (BMI) calculated as the weight divided with the height squared, body surface area calculated with the Mosteller–BAS( $m^2$ )=(height(cm) x weight(kg)/3600)1/2 formula, the duration and way of treatment of diabetes, the medication (hypoglycemics) and the dose with which the patients are being treated.

At all participants in the study external electrocardiograms (ECG with lab version 3.0) were: - Measuring of blood pressure according to standard protocol [73]; - In the blood and urine samples the determined were the values of: glycemia, lipid status (Total cholesterol, LDL-chol, HDL-chol, triglycerides), urea, creatine, uric acid, electrolytes (Na, K, Ca), in the morning, after 12 hour starvation. The received samples were analyzed with a (Reflotron Roche analyzer).

### *Echocardiographic study*

An Echocardiographic study was made with an Acuson 128 XP echocardiograph (with a 2.5 Mz frequency probe, with M-mode, D-dimensional, and Doppler pulsant and continuous). The echocardiographic test was done with the standard overview: the subject was lying on his left side. At all participants in the study a complete M-mode, D-dimensional, Doppler-echocardiographic study was done. The dimension of the left ventricle, atrium and the fat of the walls were measured from a bi-dimensional, targeted M-mode echocardiography, using the criteria of the American Association of echocardiography [74]. Measures were: the conventional parameters: - LVEDD – Left ventricular end diastolic dimension; LVESD – Left ventricular end systolic dimension; the dimensions of left atrium, aorta, the PWLV; – Posterior wall of left ventricular, and IVS – Intra-Ventricular septum; Ejection fraction of the left ventricle is determined by the formula:  $EF = \frac{LVEDV - LVESV}{LVEDV} \times 100$ ; - The dimensions of the left atrium (LA/cm); - The size of the left atrium is indexed for surface area (ILA/cm<sup>2</sup>): was calculated by the recommendations of the American and European association of echocardiography; The dilated left atrium is defined as ILA is >2.4 (cm/m<sup>2</sup>); - The left ventricular mass index (LVMI) is calculated according to the Devereaux formula [76]:  $(LVMI).gr = 0.84 \times ((1.04 \times IVS + PWLV) - (LVESD)) + 0.6$ ; - The LVMI – Left ventricular mass index, is calculated by dividing: (LVM and BSA) (77). For hypertrophy, of the left ventricle, calculated was  $LVM > 134g/m^2$  for men and  $LVM > 110g/m^2$  for women.

The estimation of DIASTOIC FUNCTION of the left ventricle was done with doppler-echocardiographic analysis of the diastolic time intervals, as well as an analysis of the model of ventricular filling, represented by a transmitral

flow-velocity profile, acquired with a conventional pulsed-wave Doppler, where the sample volume is positioned between the peaks of the mitral leaflets, which enables registering of the maximal speed of the mitral flow. The size of the sample volume was 2-3mm. The analysis of the transmitral flow was done from an apical four-chamber view. The examination was done during normal expiration. The measurements were performed as middle values for 3 consecutive cycles, and the cycles in which a union of the E and A valve were turned off [75].

Doppler – the echocardiographic parameters of the mitral curve that are measured into two groups: - Peak velocity of early filling of E-wave; - Peak velocity of late filling of A-wave; - Relation between peak velocity of E and A waves, or E/A;- Values of E/A relation; - Time of deceleration of E-wave on the diastole, as the time of the middle of the peak of the E-wave and the point where the basic line is extrapolated with the lower wing of the E-wave; - The time of isovolumenic relaxation as a time interval from the completion of the aorta flow until the beginning of the mitral flow.

Doppler-echocardiographic parameters that are used for estimation of the diastolic function, recommended by the European Group for Study of Diastolic Heart Failure [75]: 1) Normal diastolic function, if (E/A relation from 1.0 until 1.5; DT from 180 until 240m/sec; time of isovolumen relaxation 74-90 m/sec); 2) Impaired relaxation, if  $E < A$ ;  $E/A < 1.0$ ;  $DT > 240m/sec$ ; extended time of isovolumen relaxation  $> 90m/sec$ . (Diastolic dysfunction of 1<sup>st</sup> degree); 3) Impaired relaxation (pseudo-normalized pattern) if: the E/A relation is from 1.0 until 1.5;  $DT < 180m/sec$ . (diastolic dysfunction of 2<sup>nd</sup> degree); 4) Impaired relaxation (restrictive pattern) if:  $E/A > 2.0$  and the time of deceleration  $< 180m/sec$ . (diastolic dysfunction of 3<sup>rd</sup> degree).

### *Statistical analysis*

The acquired continuous data from the examinations for each group was shown as middle value +/- for standard deviation (SD). The statistical processing of data is done by the statical programs (STATISTICA 7.1 and SPSS 13.0).

## **Results**

Clinical and with Doppler echocardiograph tested were 180 patients, of which 60 patients (30 men and 30 women) from the control group, and 120 patients (60 men and 60 women) with type 2 diabetes mellitus, in the tested group.

Baseline clinical and laboratory data are shown in Table 1. The majority of demographic and clinical data did not show significant differences among patients in different groups. Significant changes between the groups in the clinical variables were observed in relation to: The Body Mass Index (BMI). Patient from the type 2 diabetes group had significantly higher BMI (27.76 ± 4.30) in relation to the (25.92 ± 2.85; 95% CI: 26.98 – 28.53; p<0.003), tested persons from the control group. Patient from the type 2 diabetes group, had significantly higher values of LDL-cholesterol and Trig. (LDL-cholesterol 3.518 ± 0.50 in relation to 3.23 ± 0.28 95% CI; 3.09 – 3.24; p < 0.001); and Trig. (2.16 ± 0.24 in relation to 2.02 ± 0.13; 95% CI: 1.04 - 1.06; p<0.001;), in relation to the LDL-cholesterol and Triglycerides in the control group. Patient from the type 2 diabetes group had significantly low values of HDL-cholesterol (1.06 ± 0.15 in relation to 1.01 ± 0.21; 95% CI: 1.04 - 1.06; p<0.008), in relation to the HDL-cholesterol in the control group.

**Table 1: Clinical and laboratory characteristics in each group.**

| Variables                | Control Group (n=60) | DM Group (n=120) | P     |
|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------|-------|
| Age (yrs)                | 50.22 ± 3.46         | 49.92 ± 3.99     | 0.385 |
| BW (kg)                  | 72.37 ± 10.48        | 77.34 ± 13.51    | 0.013 |
| BH (cm)                  | 168.63 ± 6.45        | 168.89 ± 7.22    | 0.878 |
| BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) | 25.92 ± 2.85         | 27.76 ± 4.30     | 0.003 |
| D.M.d (yrs)              |                      | 3.00 ± 1.30      |       |
| SBP (mmHg)               | 117.73 ± 7.81        | 115.66 ± 7.87    | 0.133 |
| DBP (mmHg)               | 79.50 ± 2.29         | 79.10 ± 2.95     | 0.492 |
| Glic (mmol/l)            | 5.40 ± 0.80          | 5.934 ± 0.33     | 0.381 |
| Urea (mmol/l)            | 6.97 ± 0.40          | 7.36 ± 0.66      | 0.133 |
| Cre (mmol/l)             | 78.45 ± 14.33        | 80.22 ± 7.53     | 0.820 |
| Chol-tot (mmol/l)        | 5.85 ± 0.44          | 5.931 ± 0.56     | 0.220 |
| LDLchol (mmol/l)         | 3.23 ± 0.28          | 3.518 ± 0.50     | 0.000 |
| HDL-cholesterol (mmol/l) | 1.06 ± 0.15          | 1.01 ± 0.21      | 0.008 |
| Trig (mmol/l)            | 2.02 ± 0.13          | 2.16 ± 0.24      | 0.000 |

Values are mean ± SD. BW = body weight; BH = body height; BMI = body mass index; D.M.d = diabetes mellitus duration; SPB = systolic blood pressure; DPB = diastolic blood pressure; Glic = glycemia; Cre = creatinin; Chol-tot = total cholesterol; LDL-cholesterol = low density cholesterol; HDL-cholesterol = high density cholesterol; Trig = triglycerides.

Echocardiographic data, are shown in Table 2. There were not significant differences between the groups regarding: left ventricle dimensions, left ventricle ejection fraction, left ventricle fractional shortening, thickness of interventricular septum, thickness of left ventricular posterior wall, left atrium, aorta, indexed left ventricular mass, deceleration time of E-wave, and peak velocity of A-wave. Significant differences between the groups were observed in relation to the variables acquired with the pulsed-wave Doppler, on transmitral flow: Patient from the type 2 DM group, have a significantly lower peak velocity of E-wave (0.66 ± 0.17 cm/s) in relation to the control group (0.73 ± 0.16 cm/s); p<0.01 (p=0.004). Significant differences between the groups, were observed in relation to the distribution of E/A<1.0 relation. At the patient from the DM group, the proportion of patients with E/A<1.0 is 37.50%

**Table 2: Basic echocardiographic variables of the tested groups.**

| Variables                  | Control Group (n=60) | DM Group (n=120) | p      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------|--------|
| LA (cm)                    | 3.28 ± 0.45          | 3.49 ± 0.44      | 0.004  |
| ILA (cm/sf.t)              | 0.06 ± 0.01          | 0.06 ± 0.01      | 0.234  |
| Ao (cm)                    | 3.29 ± 0.46          | 3.29 ± 0.43      | 0.977  |
| LVED-d (cm)                | 4.84 ± 0.55          | 4.86 ± 0.53      | 0.820  |
| LVES-d (cm)                | 2.9 ± 0.68           | 2.98 ± 0.32      | 0.819  |
| THPW (cm)                  | 1.09 ± 0.15          | 1.14 ± 0.14      | 0.079  |
| THS (cm)                   | 1.03 ± 0.11          | 1.01 ± 0.13      | 0.403  |
| EF (%)                     | 0.68 ± 0.07          | 0.68 ± 0.06      | 0.731  |
| SHF (%)                    | 0.39 ± 0.07          | 0.38 ± 0.05      | 0.967  |
| LVM (gr)"                  | 108.45 ± 12.51       | 114.31 ± 12.51   | 0.123  |
| ILMVM (gr/m <sup>2</sup> ) | 59.33 ± 0.01         | 60.40 ± 12.51    | 0.733  |
| E (cm)                     | 0.73 ± 0.16          | 0.66 ± 0.17      | 0.004  |
| A (cm)                     | 0.54 ± 0.10          | 0.56 ± 0.13      | 0.354  |
| E/A (cm)                   | 1.35 ± 0.31          | 1.18 ± 0.48      | 0.020  |
| IVR-t (msec)               | 91.38 ± 19.09        | 98.14 ± 19.09    | 0.0002 |
| DC-t E (msec)              | 251.40 ± 44.50       | 249.62 ± 54.02   | 0.48   |
| E/A >1.0 n (%)             | 58 (96.7%)           | 75 (62.5%)       | NS     |
| E/A <1.0 n (%)             | 2 (3.3%)             | 45 (37.5%)       | 0.001  |

Values are mean ± SD or n, (%). LA = left atrium; ILA = indexed left atrium; Ao = aorta; ED-d = end diastolic dimension of left ventricle; ES-d = end systolic dimension of left ventricle; THPW = thickening of posterior wall; THS = thickening of septum; EF = ejection fraction; FS = fraction of shortening; LVM = left ventricular mass; ILMVM = indexed left ventricular mass; E = peak velocity of E-wave; A = peak velocity of A-wave; IVRT = isovolumetric relaxation time; DC-tE = deceleration time of E-wave.

(in 45 patients), in relation to 3.3% (in 2 patients), at the patient from the control group (p<0.001). E/A<1.0 values, significantly differences at patient of the DM group (1.18 ± 0.48), in relation to the patient from the control group (1.35 ± 0.31); p<0.05 (p=0.02). Significant differences between the groups, were observed in relation to the duration of isovolumetric relaxation time. The patient from the DM group, for (98.14 ± 19.09 msec), in relation to the patient from the control group, for (91.38 ± 19.09 msec) and p<0.001, have significantly longer duration of isovolumetric relaxation time.

**Table 3: Analyzed clinical and laboratory characteristics in relation to SEX in diabetic group.**

| Variables                | DM Group (n=120) |               | p - Value |
|--------------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------|
|                          | Women (n = 60)   | Men (n = 60)  |           |
| Age (yrs)                | 50.12 ± 4.09     | 49.72 ± 3.91  | 0.749     |
| BW (kg)                  | 73.43 ± 12.71    | 81.25 ± 13.26 | 0.001     |
| BH (cm)                  | 165.33 ± 5.50    | 172.4 ± 7.00  | 0.000     |
| BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) | 27.41 ± 4.17     | 28.11 ± 4.44  | 0.314     |
| D.M.d (yrs)              | 2.78 ± 1.29      | 3.21 ± 1.45   | 0.108     |
| SBP (mmHg)               | 116.38 ± 8.58    | 113.10 ± 7.11 | 0.297     |
| DBP (mmHg)               | 79.58 ± 3.24     | 78.62 ± 2.56  | 0.088     |
| Glic (mmol/l)            | 5.94 ± 0.29      | 5.93 ± 0.37   | 0.933     |
| Urea (mmol/l)            | 7.41 ± 0.60      | 7.31 ± 0.65   | 0.453     |
| Cre (mmol/l)             | 81.02 ± 7.02     | 79.41 ± 7.98  | 0.242     |
| Chol-tot (mmol/l)        | 6.00 ± 0.52      | 5.86 ± 0.60   | 0.112     |
| LDLchol (mmol/l)         | 3.51 ± 0.56      | 3.52 ± 0.41   | 0.546     |
| HDL-cholesterol (mmol/l) | 0.99 ± 0.29      | 1.02 ± 0.07   | 0.265     |
| Trig (mmol/l)            | 2.16 ± 0.22      | 2.15 ± 0.25   | 0.329     |

Values are mean ± SD. BW = body weight; BH = body height; BMI = body mass index; D.M.d = diabetes mellitus duration; SPB = systolic blood pressure; DPB = diastolic blood pressure; Glic = glycemia; Cre = creatinin; Chol-tot = total cholesterol; LDL-cholesterol = low density cholesterol; HDL-cholesterol = high density cholesterol; Trig = triglycerides.

Analyzed clinical, laboratoric and echocardiographic characteristics in relation to SEX, in dibetic group, are given in the following tables (Tables 3, 4). There were not significant differences of, influence of the SEX, in clinical and laboratoric characteristics (Table 3). Also, there were not significant influence of the SEX, in echocardiographic characteristics in dibetic group  $p > 0.05$  ( $p = 0.35$ ) (Table 4).

**Table 4: Analyzed echocardiographic characteristics in relation to sex in diabetic group.**

| Variables                  | DM Group (n = 120) |                | p Value  |
|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------|
|                            | Women (n = 60)     | Men (n = 60)   |          |
| LA (cm)                    | 3.48 ± 0.43        | 3.48 ± 0.45    | 0.682    |
| ILA (cm/sf.t)              | 0.06 ± 0.01        | 0.05 ± 0.01    | 0.778    |
| Ao (cm)                    | 3.12 ± 0.39        | 3.44 ± 0.38    | 0.000019 |
| LVED-d (cm)                | 4.67 ± 0.56        | 5.05 ± 0.41    | 0.000057 |
| LVES-d (cm)                | 2.86 ± 0.32        | 3.09 ± 0.28    | 0.000027 |
| THPW (cm)                  | 1.12 ± 0.13        | 1.14 ± 0.14    | 0.432    |
| THS (cm)                   | 1.00 ± 0.12        | 1.01 ± 0.13    | 0.807    |
| EF (%)                     | 0.67 ± 0.06        | 0.68 ± 0.06    | 0.524    |
| SHF (%)                    | 0.37 ± 0.04        | 0.38 ± 0.05    | 0.571    |
| E (cm)                     | 0.63 ± 0.16        | 0.67 ± 0.16    | 0.352    |
| A (cm)                     | 0.56 ± 0.12        | 0.55 ± 0.13    | 0.809    |
| E/A (cm)                   | 1.13 ± 0.44        | 1.22 ± 0.51    | 0.481    |
| E/A > 1.0 n (%)            | 35 (58.3%)         | 40 (66.6%)     | NS       |
| E/A < 1.0 n (%)            | 25 (41.6%)         | 20 (33.3%)     | 0.350    |
| DC-t E (msec)              | 241.20 ± 24.50     | 258.03 ± 45.45 | 0.011934 |
| IVR-t (msec)               | 97.40 ± 13.47      | 98.88 ± 16.06  | 0.359    |
| LVM (gr)                   | 109.14 ± 24.50     | 119.48 ± 23.00 | 0.011    |
| ILMVM (gr/m <sup>2</sup> ) | 59.88 ± 13.47      | 60.32 ± 11.66  | 0.401    |

Values are mean ± SD or n (%). LA = levtr atrium; ILA = indexed left atrium; Ao = aortae; ED-d = end diastolic dimension of left ventricle; ES-d = end systolic dimension of left ventricle; THPW = thickening of posterior wall; THS = thickening of septum; EF = ejection fraction; FS = fraction of shortening; LVM = left ventricular mass; ILMVM = indexed left ventricular mass; E = peac velocity of E-wave; A = peac velocity of A-wave; IVRT = isovolumetric relaxsation time; DC-tE = deceleration time of E-wave.

Logistic Regression model were used to identify association of subclinical levtr ventricular diastolic dysfunction and clinical, laboratoric and echocardiographic characteristics. All parameters are given in following tables (Tables 5-7). There is a significant association between the subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction of the levtr ventriculi and Diabetes Mellitus [(Chi Square=12.87 and  $p < 0.01$  ( $p = 0.002$ )). The patient from type 2 diabetes group, for [O.R.=3.97 (95% CI 1.73-9.11)] have 3.97 times, higher risk for subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction, rather than the patient from the control group. The women for [O.R. =1.21 (95% CI 0.63-2.36)] have 1.21 times greater but not significant risk than the men, for subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction (Table 5). There is a significant association between the

**Table 5: The results of logistic regression of association of diabetes and gender, as independent parameters and left ventricular diastolic dysfunction as dependent parameter.**

|            | B         | S.E.   | Wald | df     | Significance | Exp (B) | 95.0% C.I. for Exp (B) |       |       |
|------------|-----------|--------|------|--------|--------------|---------|------------------------|-------|-------|
|            |           |        |      |        |              |         | Lower                  | Upper |       |
| Gen. (1)   | .194      | .339   | .326 | 1      | .568         | 1.214   | .625                   | 2.359 |       |
| Step 1 (a) | DM.gr (1) | 1.378  | .425 | 10.525 | 1            | .001    | 3.965                  | 1.725 | 9.113 |
|            | Constant  | -1.972 | .421 | 21.931 | 1            | .000    | .139                   |       |       |

Variable(s) entered on step 1(a): gen (1) = female; group (1) D.M.

subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction as dependent variable and: age, BMI, Tot-chol, LDL-chol, and trygliceride as independent variables [(Chi Square=38.23 and  $p < 0.001$  ( $p = 0.000$ ))].

**Table 6: The results of logistic regression of assotiation of clinical, laboratory characteristics and levtr ventricular diastolic dysfunction.**

| Step |           | B       | S.E.  | Wald   | df | Significance | Exp (B) | 95.0% C.I. for Exp (B) |        |
|------|-----------|---------|-------|--------|----|--------------|---------|------------------------|--------|
|      |           |         |       |        |    |              |         | Lower                  | Upper  |
| 1(a) | Age       | .119    | .052  | 5.150  | 1  | .023         | 1.126   | 1.016                  | 1.248  |
|      | BW        | .008    | .027  | .094   | 1  | .759         | 1.008   | .957                   | 1.063  |
|      | BMI       | .093    | .087  | 1.158  | 1  | .282         | 1.098   | .926                   | 1.301  |
|      | SPB       | .022    | .026  | .708   | 1  | .400         | 1.022   | .971                   | 1.077  |
|      | DPB       | .149    | .078  | 3.634  | 1  | .057         | 1.160   | .996                   | 1.352  |
|      | Urea      | .293    | .341  | .737   | 1  | .391         | 1.340   | .687                   | 2.615  |
|      | Chol-tot  | .737    | .463  | 2.540  | 1  | .111         | 2.091   | .844                   | 5.177  |
|      | LDL-chol. | .441    | .495  | .792   | 1  | .373         | 1.554   | .589                   | 4.102  |
|      | Trig.     | 1.121   | .859  | 1.704  | 1  | .192         | 3.068   | .570                   | 16.514 |
|      | Constant  | -34.916 | 7.779 | 20.146 | 1  | .000         | .000    |                        |        |

BW = body weight; BMI = body mass index; SPB = systolic blood pressure; DPB = diastolic blood pressure; Chol-tot = total holersterol; LDL-chol = low density holersterol; Trig = trigicerides.

The biggest significance in the tested model has the age (Wald=5.15) and  $p < 0.05$  ( $p = 0.02$ ). The age, for [O.R. = 1.126 (95% CI 1.02-1.25)] has significant influence of the subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction. Namely, with the showing of the age for 1 year, the subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction of the heart increases by 12.6% (Table 6). There is significant assotiation between the subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction as an addictive occurrence and the Echocardiographic parameters as independent variables [(Chi Square = 148.18) and  $p < 0.001$  ( $p = 0.000$ )). The greatest significance in the tested model has E/A relation (Wald=35.12) whose is  $p < 0.001$  ( $p = 0.000$ ), then on IVR-t [(Wald=4.35)  $p < 0.05$  ( $p = 0.04$ )]. From the Exp (B) values

**Table 7: The results of logistic regression of association of echocardiographic characteristics and left ventricular diastolic dysfunction.**

| Step      |          | B      | S.E.  | Wald   | df | Sig. | Exp (B) | 95.0% C.I. for Exp (B) |           |
|-----------|----------|--------|-------|--------|----|------|---------|------------------------|-----------|
|           |          |        |       |        |    |      |         | Lower                  | Upper     |
|           | Ao       | -5.10  | .846  | .363   | 1  | .547 | .601    | .114                   | 3.155     |
|           | THPW     | 3.721  | 2.981 | 1.558  | 1  | .212 | 41.298  | .120                   | 14229.851 |
|           | THS      | 1.175  | 3.237 | .132   | 1  | .717 | 3.239   | .006                   | 1844.681  |
| Step 1(a) | E/A      | -6.746 | 1.138 | 35.117 | 1  | .000 | .001    | .000                   | .011      |
|           | DC-t E   | .006   | .007  | .841   | 1  | .423 | 1.006   | .992                   | 1.020     |
|           | IVR-t    | .052   | .025  | 4.350  | 1  | .037 | 1.053   | 1.003                  | 1.106     |
|           | ILMVM    | .002   | .016  | .017   | 1  | .896 | 1.002   | .970                   | 1.035     |
|           | Constant | -4.155 | 4.872 | .727   | 1  | .394 | .016    |                        |           |

Ao = aortae; THPW = thickening of posterior wall; THS = thickening of septum; DCtE = deceleration time of E-wave; ILMVM = indexed left ventricular mass.

that give the priority relation the following is observed: The E/A relation  $< 1.0$  for [(O.R. = 0.001 (95% CI 0.00-0.01)] there is a significant association between the subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction as an addictive occurrence and the Echocardiographic parameter as independent variables.

The Duration of the isovolumenic relaxation for [(O.R. = 1.053 (95% CI 1.003-1.106))] there is a significant association between the the subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction as an additive occurrence and the Echocardiographic parameter as independent variables (Table 7).

## Discussion

Clinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction is associated to diabetes and in absence of other predisposed factors, is defined as a diabetic cardiomyopathy, with the most prominent histological changes: myocellular hypertrophy and myocardial fibrosis, implicating functional and structural changes in the myocardium [2-5].

Clinical data for the involvement of the left ventricle at the patient with type 2 diabetes, including the diastolic dysfunction, are noticed [1]. The profile of the ventricle filling at the patient with type 2 diabetes, is frequently abnormal, reflecting the basic abnormalities of relaxation and/or reduced myocardial compliance. The left ventricular diastolic dysfunction is proven with: prolonging the isovolumenic relaxation, the speeded up filling of the left ventricle, and the reduction of early diastolic filling [6-12]. The compliance is general, that, the diastolic dysfunction at the patient with type 2 diabetes, can be detected early in the course of the disease, before that the systolic dysfunction [30].

The echocardiography examination provides easy detection of the beginning abnormalities of the left ventricular diastolic dysfunction before the clinical appearance. The Doppler echocardiography is generally accepted noninvasive method for studying the left ventricular diastolic dysfunction. In our study, we used the Doppler echocardiography for estimation of: the influence of type 2 diabetes over the occurrence of the subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction though analysis of the transmitral flow-velocity, with pulsed-wave doppler, at patient with type 2 diabetes. This study provides solid evidence for the existing of the association between diabetes and diastolic dysfunction and in the absence of coronary disease, high blood pressure disease, hypertrophy of the myocard and other well known heart diseases.

Our results showed significant difference of the doppler parameter of diastolic function between the patients with type 2 diabetes and the control group. The acquired results point out that at the patient with type 2 diabetes there is a pathological transmitral flow-velocity profile, or,

a characteristic model of delayed (late) relaxation, reduced speed of transmitral flow in the phase of early ventricular filling (E-wave), decreased E/A relation <1.0 and prolongation of the isovolumenic relaxation time (>100ms). This model of transmitral flow, points out to the existence of left ventricular diastolic disease at these sick. The results of scientific studies so far, in connection with the distribution of functional abnormalities (the systolic and diastolic dysfunction) at the asymptomatic patient with type 2 diabetes are unclear [2, 45, 60-68].

In the study of Cosson S, at the patient with type 2 diabetes, the subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction was not proven [65]. In the study of Fang ZY, the distribution of subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction at the patient with type 2 diabetes is noted at 27% [2]. In the Stephanie K study, the subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction at the patient with type 2 diabetes is noted at 48% [45]. In Boyer JK's study, the distribution of subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction at the patient with type 2 diabetes is noted at 75% [66]. In our study the distribution of subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction at the patient with type 2 diabetes is noted at 37.5% of the patient with type 2 diabetes. In our study the diastolic abnormalities are proven at the patient with type 2 diabetes and in absence of coronary disease, high blood pressure disease, hypertrophy of the myocardium and other well known heart diseases. Results that are similar to previous studies for the diabetic heart disease (diabetic cardiomyopathy) described at the patient with type 2 diabetes in the absence of coronary disease, high blood pressure disease, and other well known heart diseases [3, 5].

The results of our study proved that subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction at the patient with type 2 diabetes shown by the model of impaired relaxation (pathological model) of ventricular filling, that points out to the diastolic dysfunction of the 1<sup>st</sup> degree, occurs in the early stages of the diabetic heart disease. The results of our study are similar to those of the Di Bonito et al study, in which the diastolic abnormalities were noted in the early stages of the diabetic heart disease at the asymptomatic patient with diabetes [4]. The reduction of the systolic function of the left ventricle is proven in many studies at the asymptomatic patient with type 2 diabetes. The chronic abnormalities of the carbohydrates in the myocardiocytes, abnormalities of the metabolism of fats at the patient with diabetes, results in the reduction of activity of adenosine trifosfatase, reduction of the capability of sarcoplasmic reticulum for the calcium and the accumulation of intermediate toxic fat acids, and with that a reduction of

the systolic function [1].

In the Vanninen study a reduced ejectional fraction at the asymptotically patient with type 2 diabetes has been proven [68]. Even besides that in many epidemiological observations, the increased frequency of heart failure at the patient with diabetes has been proven, they have demonstrated normal systolic function on the left ventricle in a calm state. In the Mustonen JN study, a significant difference was not proven of the ejectional fraction between the patient with type 2 diabetes and the control group [60]. In our study the difference in the ejectional fraction between the compared groups is not mentioned.

At these situations, the changes in the state of calm may be too subtle to be identified through indicators to be load-dependent, as the ejectional fraction of the left ventricle, and according to that, an application of more sensitive techniques is necessary [60, 68]. The abnormal relaxation of the left ventricle, present at the patient with diabetes (the reduction of values of the E/A relation) is associated to the increased morbidity of the patient with diabetes and can contribute in the incensement of the incidence of the congestive heart failure, and if it does, the normal ejectional fraction of the left ventricle [3]. Significant interaction between diabetes and the sex is found in many studies [61-63]. The difference in sex in the prevalence of cardiovascular disease is observed clinically and experimented [63].

In the Ida G study, it is proven that women with diabetes have a higher relative risk of cardiovascular diseases that with men with diabetes, in comparison to the men and women without diabetes [63]. The explanation for this greater risk at women remains unclear. In the Fand Zy study, the influence of sex in the distribution of subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction at the ones with type 2 diabetes is not proven [2]. Also, the Bajraktari G study does not prove the influence of sex in the distribution of subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction at the ones with type 2 diabetes [59]. In both studies it is mentioned that as a limitation of the studies the small number of women included in the studies. In Suys BE study, it is proven that the changes in the diastolic function and dimension of the left ventricle at women with type 2 diabetes are more significant [62].

In our study we do not prove significant influence of the sex in the distribution of subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction nor in the dimensions of the left ventricle at the patient with type 2 diabetes. But, the results from the logistic regresional analysis show that women with type 2 diabetes have 1.21 times greater risk

of development of subclinical diastolic dysfunction, in relation to men. A result that shows that with examination of the subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction in the larger examined group with patient with type 2 diabetes, maybe it can be proven that the right influence of the sex in the distribution of the subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction at the patient with type 2 diabetes. The received results in our study did not prove the given hypothesis that the potential for type 2 diabetes in the precipitation of subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction at women, in the absence of coronary disease, high blood pressure disease and other well known heart diseases, is different in comparison to males. The results of examinations so far regarding the influence of duration of diabetes in left ventricular diastolic dysfunction are unclear.

In Jenifer EL study it is proven that a positive correlation between the duration of diabetes and the distribution of left ventricular diastolic dysfunction [36]. The connectedness between the duration of diabetes and the functional, structural changes of the left ventricle are proven in many clinical studies, but not in all studies [62-64]. In the Suyis BE study, the weak-positive correlation between the duration of diabetes and the left ventricular diastolic dysfunction is proven [62]. Fiorini G, in his study did not prove the correlation between the duration of diabetes and the indicators of diastolic function of the left ventricle. In the same study the correlation between age and E/A relation was also not proven nor the correlation between the systolic function and duration of diabetes [64]. In the Fang ZY study, the correlation between the duration of diabetes and the diastolic abnormalities, the left ventricular diastolic and systolic dysfunctions are not proven [2]. And also in the Fiorini G study the connectedness between the duration of diabetes and the decreased left ventricular diastolic and systolic dysfunctions at the patient with type 2 diabetes are not proven [69].

In our study we do not prove an influence of the duration of type 2 diabetes in: the distribution of the subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction, nor in the structural and functional changes of the myocardium at the patient with type 2 diabetes. The connectedness between the left ventricular diastolic dysfunction and the age of the patient with type 2 diabetes is proven in most studies [2, 5, 19]. Fang ZY in his study, it is proven that there is significant connectedness between the left ventricular diastolic dysfunction and the age of the patient with type 2 diabetes. The study proves the positive correlation between the age of people tested with diabetes

and the E/A relation, the duration of the deceleration of the E-wave, and the duration of the isovolumic relaxation [2]. In the Tokushima T study, a significant connectedness between the age and the diastolic abnormalities of the left ventricle is proven. The age is connected with the decrease of the top velocity of the E-wave, the increase of the top velocity of the A-wave and the increased duration of the isovolumic relaxation [19].

The results of our study proved a significant connectedness between the subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction and the age of the patient with type 2 diabetes, results similar to other studies [2, 5, 19]. The connectedness between left ventricular diastolic dysfunction at the patient with type 2 diabetes and the body mass index, is proven in clinical and experimental studies [10, 59]. The results of our study proved that the body mass index at the patient with type 2 diabetes and the subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction is greater in relation to the body mass index at the patient with type 2 diabetes, with normal left ventricular diastolic dysfunction. Results that is similar in other studies [10, 59, 67].

In animal and clinical studies, the correlation between the left ventricular diastolic dysfunction and the level of fat in the blood is proven. With the increase of the fat levels in blood, their accumulation in the myocytes increases, this results in lipotoxic damages of the myocardium (mitochondrial dysfunction, oxygen-giving products, and inflammatory cascade apoptosis) and development of diabetic cardiomyopathy. Accumulation of triglycerides in the myocardium at the people sick with type 2 diabetes results in left ventricular diastolic dysfunction regardless of age, body mass index, blood pressure and heart frequency [70]. The increased accumulation of triglycerides in the myocardium is seen early in the natural history of type 2 diabetes. Luuk JR in his study proved the positive association between the increase of the level of triglycerides in the blood at the patient with type 2 diabetes, with the increase of content of triglycerides in the myocardium and diastolic dysfunction [70]. In the same study, the inverse correlation between the increase of the level of HDL-cholesterol in the blood with diastolic dysfunction is proven, regardless of age, body mass index, obesity, heart frequency and diastolic blood pressure. In the Vinereanu D study, the negative correlation between the level of LDL-cholesterol and the systolic function at the patient with type 2 diabetes is proven [71].

In our study, the level of triglycerides in the blood at the patient with type 2 diabetes and the left ventricular diastolic dysfunction was significantly higher in comparison

with the normal diastolic function at the patient with type 2 diabetes. In our study the level of LDL-cholesterol was significantly higher at the patient with type 2 diabetes and the patient with diastolic dysfunction, in comparison to the patient with type 2 diabetes with normal diastolic function. The results are similar in newer publications [70, 71]. On the basis of the results from the cited studies, and from the results of our study, we can set the hypothesis that the course of the diabetic heart disease begins with an accumulation of the fats in the myocytes, belonging previously to the diastolic dysfunction.

*Limitations of the examination:* At the patient that were included in our study, coronary arteriography, for exclusion of coronary disease as a reason for the left ventricular diastolic dysfunction, was not performed because it is difficult to influence the patient asymptotically, for an invasive procedure, and also from an ethical standpoint. This limitation is unavoidable. We carefully included only the patient with type 2 diabetes in our study without clinical, electrocardiographic signs for coronary disease, as well as signs of regional abnormalities in the echocardiogram. But, the latent subclinical coronary arteriosclerosis cannot be wholly disregarded. We do not believe that the subtle coronary arteriosclerosis would have an influence in the received results at a significant degree. Also in our study we did not register the pulmonary vein flow for getting comparable parameters for the left ventricular diastolic dysfunction. We believe that these limitations will not reduce the values of the basic conclusions of the study.

*Conclusions:* 1). The subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction is common at the patient with type 2 diabetes in comparison to those without diabetes, for the same age and sex. 2). The subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction is common at the patient with type 2 diabetes and in absence of coronary disease; high blood pressure disease and other well know heart diseases. 3). In this study, we did not prove the hypothesis that: the potential of type 2 diabetes, in precipitation of the subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction at females in absence of coronary disease, high blood pressure disease and other well know heart diseases, differs, in comparison with males. 4). Doppler-choreography is not an invasive method, is widely accepted, for the early discovery of one subclinical risky marker, as is the subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction at the patient with diabetes. 5). The common appearance of left ventricular diastolic dysfunction at the patient with type 2 diabetes, as suggested in our study as well, supports the use of echocardiography, in the first clinical evaluation of the patient with type 2 diabetes.



6). Early discovery of myocardial manifestation of the diabetes mellitus is of significant importance, because the inclusion of the myocardium significantly influences the prognosis of the patient with diabetes mellitus. 7) The early discovery of subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction as well as the early inclusion of medical treatment with beta-blockers and ACE-inhibitors, we can successfully do, a primary intervention of the clinically manifested heart disease, which is also a recommendation of the American and European Cardiological Associations [78]. With the interventions for reducing the level of fat at the asymptomatic patient with type 2 diabetes and diastolic dysfunction, we can successfully do a primary prevention of a clinical manifestation of heart failure.

From the abovementioned conclusions we can say that: At the patient with type 2 diabetes, functional problems (subclinical left ventricular diastolic dysfunction) in the myocardium are present before the development of myocardial systolic dysfunction. These changes potentially belong to the consecutive development of the manifested diabetic cardiomyopathy.

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