Echocardiographic assessment of cardiac remodeling in the high-level football players
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Introduction.— The aim of this study is to assess the morphological and hemodynamic cardiovascular changes of 24 high-level football players, using Doppler-echocardiography, and to compare them to a similar control group.

Methods and results.— Twenty-four elite football players were matched to 24 normal subjects according to age, sex, and body surface. All participants had a clinical examination, resting ECG, Doppler-echocardiography and a measurement of maximal oxygen uptake (VO2 max). The echocardiographic variables were compared between two groups by the Student’s t-test and other statistical tools with the software SPSS 17.0. In the group of veteran marathoners, the wall thickness was (9.9 ± 1.5 vs 8.4 ± 1.4 mm in the control group; P < 0.05), the left ventricular diastolic diameter was (56.3 ± 3.40 vs 40.2 ± 3.5 mm in the control group; P < 0.01), and the surface of left atrium was (18.5 ± 3.9 vs 14.0 ± 3.5 cm2 in the control group; P < 0.01). The VO2 max was (48.9 ± 7.9 vs 18.5 ± 6. in the control group) (P < 0.01).

Discussion.— The hemodynamic and morphological changes are the results of a cardiac adaptation required in veteran marathoners who are subjected to moderately important efforts. They have not only cardiac remodeling but also an optimal filter then using of oxygen inspired dependent on years of training and the number of training sessions per week.

Conclusion.— Cardiovascular and pulmonary exploration in veteran marathoners aged over forty allows a distinction between electrical changes and cardiac remodeling in physiological and pathological conditions. These changes vary depending on years of training and hours of training per week. A correlation between their size and physical ability of veteran marathoners is plausible.

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Comparison between non-invasive coronary flow reserve and fractional flow reserve to assess the functional significance of left anterior descending artery stenosis of intermediate severity
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Background.— To assess the functional significance of left anterior descending artery (LAD) stenosis of intermediate severity (IS) (50–70% diameter stenosis) is challenging.

Objective.— To compare the value of non-invasive coronary flow reserve (CFR) to the invasive fractional flow reserve (FFR) in the setting of LAD stenosis of angiographic IS.

Methods.— Fifty stable consecutive patients (pts) (mean age 63 ± 13 years, 11 females, mean left ventricular ejection fraction 61 ± 10%) with an angiographic proximal LAD stenosis of IS (55.5 ± 5% diameter stenosis, QCA), no previous anterior myocardial infarction, and with various vascular risk factors, were prospectively studied. They underwent FFR with intracoronary bolus adenosine (140 μg/kg per minute over 2 min), in the distal part of the LAD, the same day in nearly all cases. CFR