

1 Title Page

2 Title: Corrected right ventricular end-diastolic volume and initial distribution volume of  
3 glucose correlate with cardiac output after cardiac surgery

4

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1 Abstract Page

2 Purpose: Appropriate adjustment of cardiac preload is essential to maintain cardiac  
3 output (CO) especially in patients after cardiac surgery. This study was intended to  
4 determine whether index of right ventricular end-diastolic volume (RVEDVI), corrected  
5 RVEDVI using ejection fraction (cRVEDVI), index of initial distribution volume of  
6 glucose (IDVGI) or cardiac filling pressures are correlated with cardiac index (CI)  
7 following cardiac surgery in the presence or absence of arrhythmias.

8 Methods: Eighty-six consecutive cardiac surgical patients were studied. Patients were  
9 divided into two groups; the non-arrhythmia (NA) group (n=72) and the arrhythmia (A)  
10 group (n=14). Three sets of measurements were performed: on admission to the ICU  
11 and daily on the first 2 postoperative days. The relationship between each cardiac  
12 preload variable and CI was evaluated. A *p* value less than 0.05 indicated statistically  
13 significant differences.

14 Results: Each studied variable was not different between the two groups immediately  
15 after admission to the ICU. cRVEDVI had a linear correlation with CI in both group  
16 (NA group:  $r=0.67$ ,  $n=216$ ,  $p<0.001$ ; A group:  $r=0.77$ ,  $n=42$ ,  $p<0.001$ ), but RVEDVI  
17 had a poor correlation with CI (NA group:  $r=0.27$ ,  $n=216$ ,  $p<0.001$ ; A group:  $r=0.19$ ,  
18  $n=42$ ,  $p=0.036$ ). IDVGI had a linear correlation with CI (NA group:  $r=0.49$ ,  $n=216$ ,  
19  $p<0.001$ ; A group:  $r=0.61$ ,  $n=42$ ,  $p<0.001$ ), Cardiac filling pressures had no correlation

1 with CI.

2 Conclusion: Our results demonstrated that cRVEDVI and IDVGI were correlated with

3 CI in the presence or absence of arrhythmias. cRVEDVI and IDVGI have a potential as

4 an indirect cardiac preload marker following cardiac surgery.

5

6

## 1 Introduction

2 Appropriate adjustment of cardiac preload is essential to maintain cardiac output (CO)  
3 especially in patients following cardiac surgery, but the evaluation is not easily  
4 performed, since either impairment of cardiac function <sup>[1-3]</sup> or internal bleeding may  
5 occur following cardiac surgery. Cardiac preload is traditionally assessed by its filling  
6 pressures, but edema or focal ischemia of myocardium after cardiac surgery may affect  
7 ventricular compliance, leading to poor correlations between these pressures and the  
8 end-diastolic volume, which makes these preload variables unreliable <sup>[4]</sup>. There is  
9 interest in pulmonary artery catheter (PAC) that allows continuous measurements of CO  
10 and right ventricular end-diastolic volumes (RVEDV) on the basis of thermodilution  
11 technique <sup>[5]</sup>, since RVEDV has been reported to reflect cardiac preload better than  
12 pulmonary artery wedge pressure (PAWP) and central venous pressure (CVP) <sup>[6]</sup>.  
13 However, RVEDV has also been shown to have a poor correlation with CO following  
14 cardiac surgery <sup>[7]</sup>. Considering that RVEDV is related to patients' individual state of  
15 contractility by determining the difference between the estimated right ventricular  
16 ejection fraction (RVEF), corrected RVEDV (cRVEDV) modified by RVEF has been  
17 proposed to promote the reliability of this method <sup>[8]</sup>. Thus, it remains unclear whether  
18 RVEDV or cRVEDV can reliably reflect cardiac preload following cardiac surgery.

1 The presence of arrhythmias also makes RVEDV difficult to assess cardiac preload,  
2 since RVEDV is calculated from stroke volume (SV) divided by RVEF and SV is not  
3 constant under arrhythmia condition. However, it has not been studied adequately  
4 whether RVEDV or cRVEDV indicated cardiac preload in the presence of arrhythmias  
5 following cardiac surgery.

6 Initial distribution volume of glucose (IDVG) has been proposed as a marker of the  
7 central extracellular fluid (ECF) volume <sup>[9-12]</sup> using a small amount of glucose. The  
8 central extracellular fluid volume consists of the intravascular volume and the  
9 interstitial fluid volume of highly perfused organs such as brain, heart, lung, liver and  
10 kidneys. Previous studies reported that IDVG rather than plasma volume has a better  
11 correlation with CO during early postoperative days of esophagectomy and that IDVG  
12 can predict the occurrence of subsequent hypovolemic hypotension early after major  
13 surgical procedures <sup>[13, 14]</sup>. Additionally, IDVG has been demonstrated to have a linear  
14 correlation with CO during hemodynamically unstable states early after esophagectomy,  
15 after percutaneous coronary intervention for acute myocardial infarction and after major  
16 burns <sup>[11, 12, 15]</sup>. These results would allow us to speculate that IDVG has a potential as an  
17 alternative preload variable in critical ill patients, even though the concept of dilution  
18 volumetry is different from that of cardiac preload. Furthermore, considering the

1 concept of IDVG measurement, IDVG would not be affected significantly, even in the  
2 presence of arrhythmia, unless its cardiovascular state changes obviously during  
3 measurement.

4 Additionally, decreased cardiac function after cardiac surgery may yield to changes in  
5 the relationship between cardiac preload and CO on the ascending part of the  
6 Frank-Starling curve, and easily reach its descending part. Furthermore, a large  
7 variability of fluid volume status, from hypovolemia to hypervolemia, may be present in  
8 each individual patient following cardiac surgery. Assuming that each tested variable  
9 has a linear correlation with CO even in such heterogenous conditions, it would be  
10 clinically relevant as a cardiac preload marker following cardiac surgery.

11 To examine these hypotheses, we measured cardiac preload variables including  
12 RVEDV, cRVEDV, IDVG, PAWP and CVP as well as CO immediately after admission  
13 to the ICU and daily during the first 2 postoperative days following cardiac surgery in  
14 the presence or absence of arrhythmias. Additionally, we evaluated the effect of volume  
15 loading on each tested variable and CO when volume loading is clinically required  
16 during the first 24 hours after admission to the ICU.

17

18 Materials and methods

1 The study was approved by our institutional Ethics Committee of the Hirosaki  
2 University Graduate School of Medicine, and each patient gave written informed  
3 consent. Eighty six consecutive patients were enrolled into the study. Patients who  
4 underwent cardiac surgery including off-pump coronary artery bypass (OPCAB) and  
5 major thoracic aortic surgery were prospectively included, and each patient had a  
6 thermodilution pulmonary artery catheter placed in the operating room. Patients with  
7 hyperglycemia ( $> 250$  mg/dL), neurologic illness, apparent tricuspid regurgitation  
8 (diagnosed by transesophageal echocardiography during surgery) and mechanical  
9 cardiac support including intra-aortic balloon pumping and/or percutaneous cardiac  
10 pulmonary support were excluded from the study.

11 A pulmonary artery catheter (Swan-GanzCCOmbo CCO/SVO2, 744HF75; Baxter  
12 Healthcare Corporation, Irvine, CA) was inserted into the right internal jugular vein and  
13 connected to a Vigilance Monitor system (Vigilance II Monitor, Model VG00765;  
14 Baxter Health care Corporation, Irvine, CA), and arterial pressure, PAWP, CVP,  
15 continuous CO (CCO), RVEDV and RVEF were recorded. A 3 to 5-minute running  
16 average of CO determinations (CCOaverage mode) was used to record daily CO and  
17 RVEDV <sup>[16]</sup>. For volume loading study they were determined every 30 seconds  
18 (CCOstat mode).

1 On the basis of the presence or absence of arrhythmia, patients were divided into two  
2 groups, the non-arrhythmia (NA) group (patients who had normal sinus rhythm;  $n = 72$ )  
3 and the arrhythmia (A) group (patients who had atrial fibrillation, supraventricular  
4 premature contraction, ventricular premature contraction and/or pacemaker with heart's  
5 native electrical rhythm;  $n = 14$ ). Three sets of measurements were performed: on  
6 admission to the ICU and daily at 10 AM on the first 2 postoperative days. IDVG was  
7 determined immediately after cardiovascular variables (CCOaverage, RVEDV, PAWP,  
8 CVP, RVEF, HR and mean arterial pressure (MAP)) and other routine clinical variables  
9 were recorded. The corrected value of index of RVEDV (cRVEDVI) was also calculated  
10 using the following formula<sup>[8]</sup>

$$11 \quad \text{cRVEDVI} = \text{RVEDVI} / \exp(2.74 \times (0.4 - \text{RVEF}(\%) \times 0.01))$$

12 To calculate IDVG, a bolus of 10 ml of 50% glucose (5 g) was injected through the  
13 proximal port of the pulmonary artery catheter. Heparinized blood samples were  
14 obtained from an arterial catheter immediately before and at 3 min after the completion  
15 of glucose injection for measurement of approximated IDVG. The reported difference  
16 between the approximated IDVG and original IDVG using repeated samplings through  
17 7 min after injection was  $-0.05 \pm 0.54$  (SD) L<sup>[17]</sup>. Plasma was separated immediately for  
18 glucose measurement and plasma glucose levels were measured using glucose oxidase

1 method (glucose analyzer GA-1151; ARKRAY Co. Ltd., Kyoto, Japan). Plasma glucose  
2 levels were measured in duplicate and averaged. The coefficient of variation was less  
3 than 2% for repeated glucose measurements at a glucose concentration of 70 - 249  
4 mg/dL. IDVG was calculated according to the following formula:  $IDVG (L) = 24.4 \times$   
5  $\exp^{(-0.03 \times \Delta gl)} + 2.7$  ( $\Delta gl$  (mg/dL) is increase in glucose concentration) [18].

6 During the first 24 postoperative hours after admission to the ICU, volume loading  
7 was performed in the NA group, when a diagnosis of hypovolemic hypotension was  
8 clinically made by attending ICU physicians not related to this study. Cardiovascular  
9 variables and IDVG were also measured immediately before volume loading and 10  
10 min after completion of volume loading with 250 mL of 5% albumin over 20 min.

11

## 12 Statistical analysis

13 Calculated values are presented on the basis of the reported basal body weight before  
14 the surgery. They are also indexed to body surface area when compared with cardiac  
15 index (CI). All data were presented as mean and standard deviation (SD) because all  
16 variables were normally distributed in *ad hoc* testing. Daily variables were assessed  
17 using a one-way analysis of variance for repeated measures. *Post hoc* testing was  
18 performed using Dunnett's test. Changes in variables before and after volume loading

1 were assessed using the paired Student's *t* test, and comparisons between the NA and  
2 the A groups were assessed using the unpaired Student's *t* test. The Pearson product  
3 moment correlation using either actual values or changed values was performed. Actual  
4 values were defined as current values at each testing point. Changed values were  
5 defined as current values minus previous values. A *p* value less than 0.05 indicated  
6 statistically significant differences.

7

## 8 Results

9 Demographic data of 86 studied patients are shown in Table 1. All but five patients  
10 required a continuous infusion of vasoactive drugs such as noradrenaline and  
11 dobutamine during the study period without changes in an infusion rate during  
12 measurement.

13 Daily hemodynamic and volumetric variables are shown in Table 2. In the NA group,  
14 index of RVEDV (RVEDVI), cRVEDVI and index of IDVG (IDVGI) were increased  
15 along with CI on the second postoperative day when compared with the operative day  
16 ( $p < 0.05$ , respectively). However, PAWP, CVP as well as body weight remained  
17 unchanged throughout the study period.

18 In the NA group, actual RVEDVI had a poor correlation with actual CI ( $r = 0.27$ ,  $n =$

1 216,  $p < 0.001$ ) (Figure 1A), but actual cRVEDVI had a linear correlation with actual CI  
2 ( $r = 0.67$ ,  $n = 216$ ,  $p < 0.001$  for the latter, respectively) (Figure 1C). IDVGI also had a  
3 linear correlation with actual CI ( $r = 0.49$ ,  $n = 216$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) (Figure 1E). Neither  
4 actual PAWP nor actual CVP had a correlation with actual CI ( $r = 0.10$  for the former  
5 and  $r = -0.09$  for the latter, respectively). Changes in RVEDVI ( $\Delta$ RVEDVI) had an only  
6 poor correlation with those in CI ( $r = 0.22$ ,  $n = 144$ ,  $p = 0.007$ ) (Figure 2A), but those in  
7 cRVEDVI ( $\Delta$ cRVEDVI) had a linear correlation with CI ( $r = 0.48$ ,  $n = 144$ ,  $p < 0.001$ )  
8 (Figure 2C). Changes in IDVGI ( $\Delta$ IDVGI) also had a linear correlation with  $\Delta$ CI ( $r =$   
9  $0.54$ ,  $n = 144$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) (Figure 2E).

10 In the A group, all studied variables remained unchanged throughout the study period.  
11 Between the NA and the A groups, all tested variables were not different on each  
12 postoperative day. In the A group, actual cRVEDVI, but not RVEDVI, had a linear  
13 correlation with actual CI ( $r = 0.77$ ,  $n = 42$ ,  $p < 0.001$  for the former and  $r = 0.19$ ,  $n =$   
14  $42$ ,  $p = 0.22$  for the latter, respectively) (Figure 1D and 1B). Actual IDVGI had a linear  
15 correlation with actual CI ( $r = 0.61$ ,  $n = 42$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) (Figure 1F). Actual CVP also had  
16 an inverse correlation with actual CI ( $r = -0.41$ ,  $n = 42$ ,  $p = 0.007$ ), but actual PAWP did  
17 not. Only  $\Delta$ cRVEDVI had a moderate correlation with  $\Delta$ CI ( $r = 0.58$ ,  $n = 28$ ,  $p = 0.001$ )  
18 (Figure 2D).

1 Volume loading was done in 14 patients. A small, but statistically significant increase  
2 was observed in actual CI, cRVEDVI, IDVGI, CVP and MAP after volume loading ( $p <$   
3  $0.01$  except for cRVEDVI,  $p < 0.05$  for cRVEDVI) (Table 3). However, only actual  
4 cRVEDVI had a linear correlation with actual CI ( $r = -0.48$ ,  $n = 28$ ,  $p = 0.009$ ).

5 Using all actual daily data, the IDVG/CO ratio was  $1.66 \pm 0.33$  ( $n = 216$ ) for the NA  
6 group and  $1.73 \pm 0.29$  ( $n = 42$ ) for the A group. Between both groups, the ratio was not  
7 different ( $p = 0.17$ ).

8

## 1 Discussion

2 The present results confirmed that cardiac filling pressures were unreliable in  
3 evaluating cardiac preload following cardiac surgery, since changes in cardiac  
4 compliance may have a significant impact on the pressure and cardiac preload  
5 relationship. In contrast, this study demonstrated that actual daily cRVEDVI and IDVGI  
6 had a positive linear correlation with actual CI regardless of the presence or absence of  
7 arrhythmias, supporting the notion that these two variables can be used as a cardiac  
8 preload marker following cardiac surgery, since changes in cardiac compliance may  
9 have a negligible effect on the volume and cardiac preload relationship, even though  
10 volume loading in this study has only a limited effect due to a small increase in CI after  
11 volume loading.

12 Although, two clinical studies reported that RVEDVI was useful as a cardiac preload  
13 marker after cardiac surgery <sup>[6, 15]</sup>, a poor correlation between RVEDVI and CI was  
14 found in both groups in this study, indicating that RVEDVI is not a reliable marker of  
15 cardiac preload following cardiac surgery. Inaccurate RVEDVI determinations have  
16 been reported when patients had a low RVEF, since RVEDVI is calculated as the  
17 quotient of SV and RVEF <sup>[19-20]</sup>. Diebel et al. stated that RVEDV was reliable only when  
18 RVEF was  $38 \pm 9\%$  <sup>[5]</sup>. The RVEF in this study was  $29 \pm 7\%$  (n=216) which was similar

1 to the previous study ( $31 \pm 10\%$ ; normal RVEF range 40 - 60 %) <sup>[19]</sup>. A lower RVEF in  
2 this study would be responsible for the inaccuracy of RVEDVI measurement following  
3 cardiac surgery. To overcome the limitation of RVEDVI management, cRVEDVI  
4 modified by RVEF has been proposed <sup>[16]</sup>. In fact, cRVEDVI had a better correlation  
5 with CI regardless of the presence or absence of arrhythmias in this study. Malbrain et al.  
6 also revealed that changes in cRVEDVI had a good correlation with changes in CI even  
7 in which RVEFs (21-23 %) were lower than those in this study <sup>[16]</sup>. Therefore,  
8 cRVEDVI can be used as a reliable cardiac preload marker after cardiac surgery, even if  
9 patients have lower RVEF in the presence of arrhythmia. Although the RVEDV value is  
10 not shown on the monitor display when severe irregular rhythm developed, cRVEDVI  
11 in the presence of arrhythmias might be as reliable as cRVEDVI without arrhythmia as  
12 long as the RVEDV value is shown on the monitor display.

13 In our study, actual IDVGI had a linear correlation with actual CI in the presence or  
14 absence of arrhythmias following cardiac surgery, since the initial volume of  
15 distribution of several drugs is determined by several factors including CO <sup>[21]</sup>. As CO  
16 depends on cardiac preload based on the Frank-Starling relationship, the better the  
17 filling of the heart, the better the resulting forward output. In fact, our previous  
18 experimental and clinical studies showed a relatively good correlation coefficient

1 between IDVG and CO ranging from 0.71 to 0.89 [8, 9, 22]. However, an excessive fluid  
2 volume loading (60 ml/kg) in dogs yielded a decrease in CO despite an increase in  
3 IDVG [23]. Additionally, IDVGI and CI did not consistently move together toward the  
4 same direction, as shown in Figure 2F of this study and as described in non-surgical  
5 critically ill patients [24]. These findings allow us to speculate that IDVGI only correlates  
6 with CI when cardiac preload is on the ascending part of the Frank-Starling curve, but  
7 not on its descending part, and that IDVGI itself is not consistently affected by CI, but  
8 rather reflects the central extracellular fluid volume status. Presumably, excessive  
9 increase in cardiac preload, decrease of myocardial contractility and changes in cardiac  
10 afterload may also have a significant impact on the relationship between IDVGI and CI  
11 early after cardiac surgery. Furthermore, all but five patients required a continuous  
12 infusion of vasoactive drugs such as noradrenaline and dobutamine during the study  
13 period. These vasoactive drugs would change myocardial contractility and cardiac  
14 afterload, and have a significant impact on the relation between IDVGI and CI.  
15 Nevertheless, actual IDVGI had a linear correlation with actual CI in our study.  
16 Therefore our results suggest that IDVGI is a reliable indirect cardiac preload marker  
17 even following cardiac surgery. Furthermore, a regression line between actual IDVGI  
18 and actual CI in the A group was close to that in the NA group. Therefore, this result

1 suggests that IDVGI is not affected even in the presence of arrhythmias.

2 In the A group, no liner correlation was found between changes in each tested variable  
3 and  $\Delta CI$ . However, the mean  $\Delta CI$  in this group was only  $0.02 \pm 0.51$  L/min/m<sup>2</sup>.

4 Biancofiore et al. reported that a small change in CO ( $\Delta CO$ ) should be excluded to  
5 assess the accuracy of CO measurement<sup>[25]</sup>. According to a report of Critcheley et al. a  
6 minimal  $\Delta CO$  is required 0.5 - 1.0 L/min for this purpose<sup>[26]</sup>. Applying this value into  
7 this study, about 68% of data in the A group was included in the  $\Delta CO$  exclusion criteria.  
8 Accordingly, in the A group, daily  $\Delta CI$  was too small to assess the correlation between  
9 changes in cardiac preload variables and  $\Delta CI$ . Further studies are needed to evaluate the  
10 relationship between them in the presence of arrhythmias.

11 Similarly, an increase in CI after volume loading in this study was only small, but  
12 significant (mean  $\Delta CI = 0.3$  L/min/m<sup>2</sup>), since the amount of volume loading was  
13 relatively small (250ml of 5% albumin solution) compared to the other fluid loading  
14 studies<sup>[25, 27]</sup>, as data obtained for this study was collected during routine postoperative  
15 ICU management, rather than in a controlled research-oriented management situation,  
16 resulting in insufficient effect for evaluation of fluid loading. Additionally, the time  
17 interval between IDVG measurements before and after fluid loading was only 30 min in  
18 this study. Rose et al. calculated IDVG using a one-compartment model with repeated

1 sampling and the bias of repeated IDVG measurements was only  $0.08 \pm 0.32$  L at a  
2 30-min interval in hemodynamically stable states <sup>[28]</sup>, IDVG in this study was calculated  
3 from one-point incremental plasma concentration <sup>[18]</sup>. Therefore, one-point sampling as  
4 well as hemodynamically unstable states might affect the result that IDVGI has a poor  
5 correlation with CI at least partly, when fluid loading was performed. Nevertheless,  
6 cRVEDVI, IDVGI, CVP and MAP, but not RVEDV and PAWP, were increased after  
7 volume loading, even though no correlation was found between each tested variable and  
8 CI. Further studies are required to determine whether IDVGI can be correlated with CI  
9 in the fluid loading study.

10 To our knowledge, there have been two clinical reports describing the relationship  
11 between IDVG and fluid responsiveness after cardiac surgery. van Tulder et al. reported  
12 that IDVG was insensitive to volume loading during the early postoperative period after  
13 cardiac surgery <sup>[29]</sup>. However, they did not measure CO, even though they used a  
14 pulmonary artery catheter. Interestingly, their arterial pressure remained statistically  
15 unchanged despite an increase in CVP after volume loading. Harvey et al. also reported  
16 that neither IDVG, systolic area variability nor systolic blood pressure variability were  
17 predictive of preload responsiveness after cardiac surgery <sup>[30]</sup>. Accordingly, evaluation  
18 of fluid responsiveness during hemodynamically unstable states early after cardiac

1 surgery should be cautiously performed, since internal bleeding, temperature change,  
2 alternations in vasomotor tone, or fluid shift between compartments during the  
3 measurements may have a significant impact on the result <sup>[31]</sup>.

4 Our previous study showed that patients with congestive heart failure (CHF) had a  
5 higher IDVG/CO ratio compared with patients without CHF; the ratio  $1.68 \pm 0.47$  for  
6 the former vs.  $1.16 \pm 0.40$  for the latter, respectively <sup>[24]</sup>. When applying this ratio in the  
7 present study, the result is comparable with the ratio observed in patients with CHF and  
8 suggests that the patients following cardiac surgery have either decreased cardiac  
9 function or relative fluid accumulation in the central extracellular compartment.

10 Considering that actual IDVGI in NA group in this study was  $4.2 \pm 0.5 \text{ L/m}^2$  ( $n = 216$ )  
11 and reported IDVGI in 16 healthy volunteers was  $4.0 \pm 0.5 \text{ L/m}^2$  <sup>[32]</sup>, the former was not  
12 apparently increased, and thus high IDVG/CO ratio in this study may reflect decreased  
13 cardiac function rather than relative fluid accumulation in the central ECF compartment,  
14 even though some patients possibly had fluid accumulation. Considering our previous  
15 study, the normal IDVG range is approximately from 110 to 130 ml/kg. When decision  
16 making of fluid management is required, even in the presence of high IDVG/CO ratio, a  
17 large IDVG ( $> 130 \text{ ml/kg}$ ) indicates fluid removal to overcome excess fluid. On the  
18 other hand, small IDVG ( $< 110 \text{ ml/kg}$ ) indicates a low cardiac preload and we should

1 take into consideration of volume loading.

2 In nearly one fourth (55/216) of our studied points, a low CO state (CI < 2.2  
3 L/min/m<sup>2</sup>) was present. A low CO state might yield underestimation of IDVG, because  
4 the mixing of administered glucose would not be completed in the central extracellular  
5 compartment within 3 min postinfusion in a low CO state. However, Hashiba et al.  
6 reported an unusual extremely larger IDVGI following volume loading in a patient with  
7 right ventricular myocardial infarction, even though a low CI (approximately 1.6  
8 L/min/m<sup>2</sup>) remained unchanged despite extensive volume loading<sup>[33]</sup>. As judged by the  
9 fact that the velocity of glucose transfer across capillary membrane is about 50 times  
10 greater than the linear capillary blood flow<sup>[34]</sup>, a low CO state itself would have a  
11 minimal effect on IDVG determination. Accordingly, we believe that IDVG values in  
12 this study are reliable even in a low CO state, even though further studies are required  
13 regarding the accuracy of IDVG determination in an extremely low CO state such as  
14 less than 1.5 L/min/m<sup>2</sup>.

15

## 16 Limitations

17 Firstly, dynamic variables such as stroke volume variation and pulse pressure variation  
18 were not assessed in this study, because reliable measurement of dynamic variables

1 consistently require a relatively large tidal volume ( $> 8$  ml/kg) without spontaneous  
2 breathing activity under heavy sedation, as well as regular sinus rhythm <sup>[35]</sup>.  
3 Measurement immediately after admission to the ICU may meet these essential  
4 underlying conditions for dynamic variables, but not thereafter. However, He et al.  
5 recently showed an inverse correlation between IDVG and pulse pressure variation ( $r =$   
6  $-0.65$ ) without volume loading in neurosurgical patients after induction of anesthesia <sup>[36]</sup>.  
7 Further studies associated with volume loading are required to elucidate the relationship  
8 between them, even though the interpretation of the result should be cautiously carried  
9 out early after cardiac surgery <sup>[31]</sup>. Therefore, the relationship between IDVG and  
10 dynamic variables remains unclear.

11 Secondly, we did not simultaneously measure echocardiography. Left ventricular  
12 end-diastolic area derived from transesophageal echocardiography (TEE) was reported  
13 as a useful predictor of cardiac preload and fluid responsiveness in critically ill <sup>[37, 38]</sup>.  
14 However, after admission to the ICU, the use of TEE for cardiac preload assessment is  
15 not routinely performed because of its invasiveness requiring heavy sedation. Thus, it is  
16 difficult to assess cardiac preload repeatedly using TEE following cardiac surgery,  
17 especially in the early postoperative days.

18

1 Conclusion

2 Our results demonstrate that cRVEDVI and IDVGI had a positive linear correlation  
3 with CI following cardiac surgery regardless of the presence or absence of arrhythmias.  
4 These findings suggest that both cRVEDVI and IDVGI has a potential as an indirect  
5 cardiac preload marker following cardiac surgery.

6

7 Competing interests

8 The author(s) declare that they have no competing interests.

9

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13

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## 1 Tables

**Table 1. Demographic data and types of operation**

<b>Demographic data</b>	<b>Non-Arrhythmia group</b>	<b>Arrhythmia group</b>
Sex (M/F)	49 / 23	9 / 5
Age (years)	67 ± 12	70 ± 8
Height (cm)	159.2 ± 9.8	158.2 ± 10.0
Preoperative body weight (kg)	60.2 ± 10.6	58.9 ± 9.6
Body surface area (m <sup>2</sup> )	1.59 ± 0.19	1.57 ± 0.18
<b>Types of operation</b>		
OPCAB	13	1
on-pump CABG	12	3
valve surgery	27	7
major vascular surgery with CPB	20	3

Number of patients and mean ± SD

OPCAB: off-pump coronary artery bypass; CABG: coronary artery bypass grafting;

CPB: cardiopulmonary bypass

## 2

**Table 2. Studied variables in the early postoperative days**

	Non-arrhythmia group (n=72)			Arrhythmia group (n=14)		
	Day 0	Day 1	Day 2	Day 0	Day 1	Day 2
CI (L/min/m <sup>2</sup> )	2.5 ± 0.5	2.5 ± 0.6	2.7 ± 0.5* <sup>†</sup>	2.5 ± 0.6	2.4 ± 0.4	2.5 ± 0.5
RVEDVI (ml/m <sup>2</sup> )	114 ± 23	111 ± 22	119 ± 22 <sup>†</sup>	121 ± 25	121 ± 33	124 ± 30
cRVEDVI (ml/m <sup>2</sup> )	86 ± 17	84 ± 17	91 ± 18 <sup>†</sup>	91 ± 26	91 ± 14	92 ± 24
IDVGI (L/m <sup>2</sup> )	4.0 ± 0.6	4.1 ± 0.4*	4.4 ± 0.5* <sup>†</sup>	4.1 ± 0.6	4.2 ± 0.3	4.3 ± 0.4
PAWP (mmHg)	10 ± 4	9 ± 3	9 ± 3	8 ± 3	7 ± 4	11 ± 4
CVP (mmHg)	7 ± 3	7 ± 3	7 ± 3	8 ± 3	8 ± 3	9, ± 3
RVEF (%)	29 ± 6	29 ± 6	30 ± 6	29 ± 10	30 ± 11	29 ± 10
MAP (mmHg)	74 ± 13	69 ± 11*	73 ± 11	72 ± 12	71 ± 15	71 ± 14
HR (beats/min)	77 ± 14	79 ± 13	80 ± 13	78 ± 9	74 ± 7	78 ± 19
Body weight (kg)	61.3 ± 10.6	61.5 ± 10.6	61.4 ± 10.6	59.8 ± 8.9	60.0 ± 9.0	60.5 ± 8.9
IDVG/CO ratio	1.63 ± 0.32	1.73 ± 0.37	1.62 ± 0.29 <sup>†</sup>	1.67 ± 0.33	1.75 ± 0.29	1.78 ± 0.28

Mean ± SD

\**p*<0.05 vs. Day 0<sup>†</sup>*p*<0.05 vs. Day 1

CI: cardiac index; RVEDVI: indexed right ventricular end-diastolic volume; cRVEDVI: corrected RVEDVI, IDVGI: indexed initial distribution volume of glucose; PAWP: pulmonary artery wedge pressure; CVP: central venous pressure; RVEF: right ventricular ejection fraction; MAP: mean arterial pressure; HR: heart rate

**Table 3. Changes of variables before and after volume loading**

	Before	After
CI (L/min/m <sup>2</sup> )	1.9 ± 0.3	2.2 ± 0.4*
RVEDVI (ml/m <sup>2</sup> )	106 ± 12	108 ± 18
cRVEDVI (ml/m <sup>2</sup> )	70 ± 13	75 ± 14**
IDVGI (L/m <sup>2</sup> )	3.4 ± 0.4	3.6 ± 0.5*
PAWP (mmHg)	7 ± 4	8 ± 2
CVP (mmHg)	6 ± 3	7 ± 4*
SvO <sub>2</sub> (%)	60 ± 7	60 ± 6
MAP (mmHg)	62 ± 9	69 ± 11*
HR (beats/min)	78 ± 15	78 ± 15

Mean ± SD

\**p*<0.01 compared with before volume loading

\*\**p*<0.05 compared with before volume loading

CI: cardiac index; RVEDVI: indexed right ventricular end-diastolic volume;

cRVEDVI: corrected RVEDVI; IDVGI: indexed initial distribution volume of glucose;

PAWP: pulmonary artery wedge pressure; CVP: central venous pressure;

SvO<sub>2</sub>: mixed venous oxygen saturation; MAP: mean arterial pressure; HR: heart rate

1 Figure legends

2 Fig 1. The relationship with actual cardiac index in the presence or absence of  
3 arrhythmias

4 A (top, left) RVEDVI vs. CI in the non-arrhythmia group ( $r = 0.27, n = 216, p < 0.001$ ).

5 B (top, right) RVEDVI vs. CI in the arrhythmia group ( $r = 0.19, n = 42$  and  $r = 0.22$ ). C

6 (middle, left) cRVEDVI vs. CI in the non-arrhythmia group ( $r = 0.67, n = 216, p <$

7  $0.0001$ ). D (middle, right) cRVEDVI vs. CI in the arrhythmia group ( $r = 0.77, n = 42, p <$

8  $0.0001$ ). E (bottom, left) IDVGI vs. CI in the non-arrhythmia group ( $r = 0.49, n = 216, p$

9  $< 0.001$ ). F (bottom, right) IDVGI vs. CI in the arrhythmia group ( $r = 0.61, n = 42, p <$

10  $0.001$ ).

11

12 Actual values were defined as current values at each testing point.

13 RVEDVI: index of right ventricular end-diastolic volume; CI: cardiac index, cRVEDVI;

14 corrected RVEDVI; IDVGI: index of initial distribution volume of glucose

15

1 Fig 2. The relationship with changes in cardiac index in the presence or absence of  
2 arrhythmias

3 A (top, left) RVEDVI vs. CI in the non-arrhythmia group ( $r = 0.22$ ,  $n = 144$ ,  $p = 0.007$ ).

4 B (top, right) RVEDVI vs. CI in the arrhythmia group ( $r = 0.37$ ,  $n = 28$  and  $p = 0.06$ ). C

5 (middle, left) cRVEDVI vs. CI in the non-arrhythmia group ( $r = 0.48$ ,  $n = 144$ ,  $p <$

6  $0.0001$ ). D (middle, right) cRVEDVI vs. CI in the arrhythmia group ( $r = 0.58$ ,  $n = 28$ ,  $p$

7  $= 0.0001$ ). E (bottom, left) IDVGI vs. CI in the non-arrhythmia group ( $r = 0.54$ ,  $n = 144$ ,

8  $p < 0.001$ ). F (top, right) IDVGI vs. CI in the arrhythmia group ( $r = 0.07$ ,  $n = 28$  and  $p =$

9  $0.70$ ).

10

11 Changed values were defined as current values minus previous values.

12 RVEDVI: index of right ventricular end-diastolic volume; CI: cardiac index;

13 cRVEDVI: corrected RVEDVI; IDVGI: index of initial distribution volume of glucose

14

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