

LIVER STIFFNESS MEASUREMENTS WITH A NEW POINT-OF-CARE DEVICE, HEPATOSCOPE, USING TWO-DIMENSIONAL TRANSIENT ELASTOGRAPHY SHOWED GOOD CORRELATION TO OTHER NON-INVASIVE TESTS.

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BACKGROUND

- Non-invasive tests (NITs) are recommended for the **risk stratification** of patients at risk of Metabolic associated steatohepatitis (**MASH**)¹⁻³.
- Liver stiffness measurement (LSM) by ultrasound-based transient elastography (TE) is one of them.

OBJECTIVES

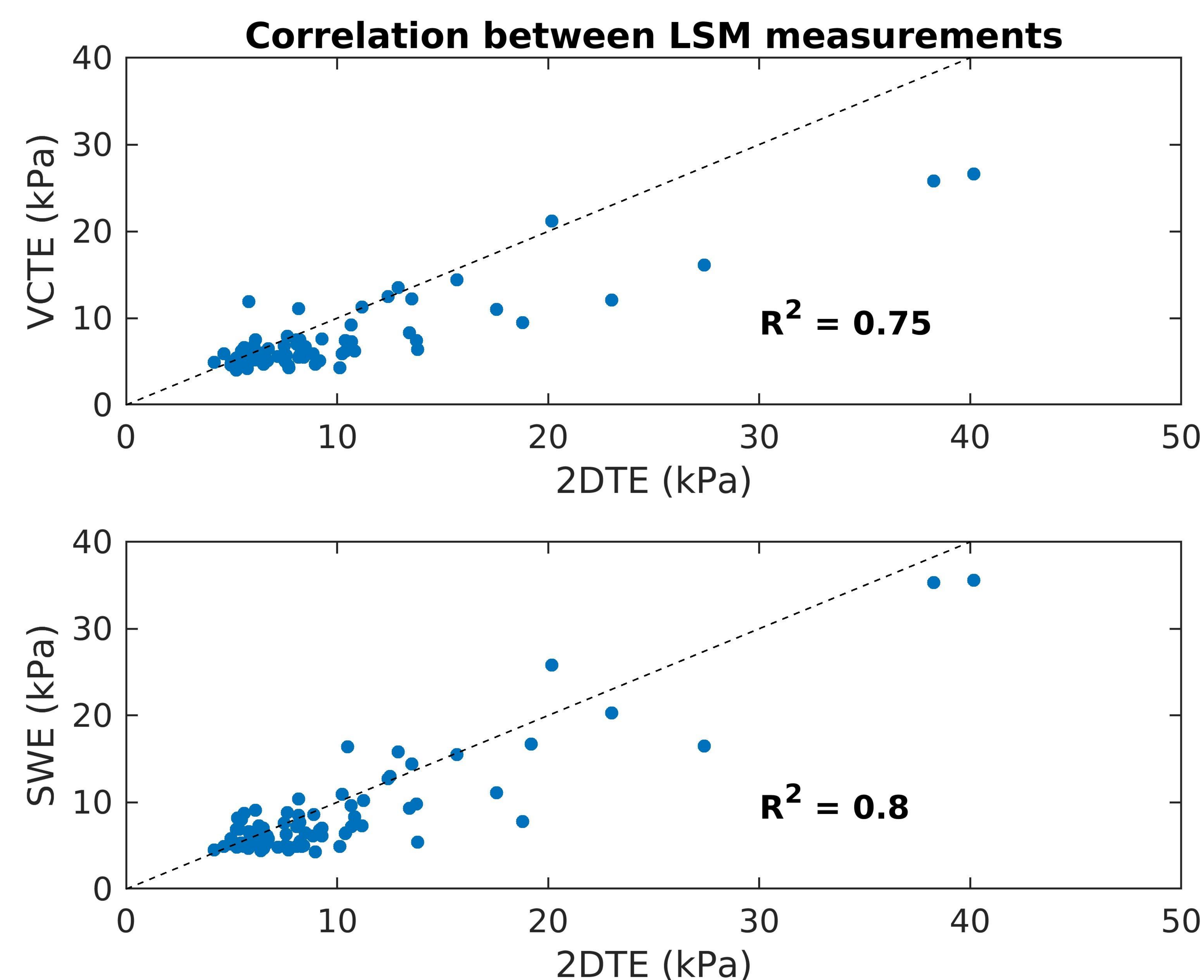
- To assess the **correlation between LSM** obtained with TE using 2D-measurements of shear wave speed (2DTE) on a new ultrasound imaging point-of-care device, Hepatoscope™, and other NITs, of which Fibroscan VCTE.

METHODS

- Prospective** single center study (NCT04782050)
- 96 adult patients referred to routine outpatient hepatology consultation for CLD
- 1 expert and 1 novice operators**, blinded to any median value for each series of measurements
- Reproducibility assessed by Intraclass Correlation Coefficients (ICC) (results not reported here)
- NITs used for liver fibrosis assessment: LSM with VCTE, LSM with Aixplorer® ShearWave Elastography (SWE), FIB-4, APRI and NAFLD Fibrosis Score (NFS).
- R² correlations** between non-invasive tests for steatosis.

RESULTS

- All NITs** used for liver fibrosis assessment were **positively correlated** with each other.
- All correlations between **LSM** techniques were **strong**: $r^2=0.79$ (VCTE vs SWE), $r^2=0.75$ (VCTE vs 2DTE), and $r^2=0.80$ (2DTE vs SWE). (see figure below)
- Correlations between blood tests were weaker: $r^2=0.49$ (FIB-4 vs NFS), $r^2=0.31$ (FIB-4 vs APRI), and $r^2=0.10$ (APRI vs NFS).
- 2DTE correlated significantly better ($p<0.001$) with APRI ($r^2=0.64$) than VCTE ($r^2=0.27$) and SWE ($r^2=0.33$). FIB-4 correlated moderately with 2DTE and SWE ($r^2=0.19$), and better than with VCTE ($r^2=0.12$; $p=0.05$). NFS correlated weakly with 2DTE ($r^2=0.08$), and significantly better with VCTE ($r^2=0.16$) and SWE ($r^2=0.21$) ($p<0.01$).



CONCLUSION

- LSM performed with **2DTE strongly correlated** with other ultrasound-based LSM techniques (VCTE and SWE).
- Correlations between LSM by any technique and blood tests were found to be weak to good.
- 2DTE may be used at the bedside for large scale screening purposes.
- Future comparative studies against liver biopsy are needed to validate existing LSM cutoffs for the triage of patients at risk of fibrotic NASH.

REFERENCES

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