

Parameters	Control group (N=50)	Paroxysmal AF group (N=50)	Persistent AF group (N=50)	P value
Age (years)	59.34±7.05	57.78±8.36	60.94±6.70	0.106
Female, n (%)	16 (32)	17 (34)	15 (30)	0.912
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	23.87±1.59	24.21±1.89	24.84±2.57	0.080
BSA (m <sup>2</sup> )	1.72±0.07	1.70±0.12	1.73±0.12	0.553
Smoking, n (%)	15 (30)	17 (34)	19 (38)	0.700
Drinking, n (%)	9 (18)	13 (26)	11 (22)	0.627
Coronary heart disease, n (%)	7 (14)	10 (20)	9 (18)	0.722
Hypertension, n (%)	30 (60)	28 (56)	34 (68)	0.455
Diabetes, n (%)	7 (14)	7 (14)	6 (12)	0.944
Total cholesterol (mmol/L)	4.33±0.71	4.17±0.89	3.94±0.82	0.060
Triglyceride (mmol/L)	1.37±0.50	1.52±0.58	1.55±0.39	0.150
HDL (mmol/L)	1.40±0.29	1.34±0.26	1.28±0.22	0.087
LDL (mmol/L)	2.42±0.60	2.25±0.64	2.56±0.78	0.086
LVEF (%)	61.38±4.86	62.46±4.08	60.52±4.00	0.084
LAD (mm)	34.10±2.13	38.20±4.09a	41.75±4.74ab	<0.001
EAT thickness (mm)	3.89±0.87	4.96±0.99a	6.18±1.09ab	<0.001

**Table 1. Baseline clinical and echocardiographic characteristics.**

Values are expressed as mean±SD, median (interquartile range) or number (percentage). a P<0.05, vs. patients in control group, b P<0.05, vs. patients in paroxysmal AF group. BMI body mass index, BSA body surface area, HDL-C high density lipoprotein, LDL low density lipoprotein, LVEF left ventricular ejection fraction, LAD left atrial dimension, EAT epicardial adipose tissue.

Parameters	Control group (N=50)	Paroxysmal AF group (N=50)	Persistent AF group (N=50)	P value
LAVImax (ml/m <sup>2</sup> )	33.89±3.43	39.27±4.47a	46.59±5.40ab	<0.001
LAVIp (ml/m <sup>2</sup> )	23.26±2.90	27.86±4.57a	35.78±5.54ab	<0.001
LAVImin (ml/m <sup>2</sup> )	13.04±2.43	18.69±4.24a	28.63±5.63ab	<0.001
LATEF (%)	61.73±4.29	52.91±6.31a	38.97±6.57ab	<0.001
LAAEF (%)	44.11±6.15	33.48±6.18a	20.39±5.23ab	<0.001
LAPEF (%)	31.41±4.19	29.39±4.73a	23.50±4.28ab	<0.001
LASr (%)	33.44±3.03	27.16±3.94a	16.14±3.66ab	<0.001
LASct (%)	17.85±3.08	14.41±2.15a	7.18±2.42ab	<0.001
LAScd (%)	15.60±2.94	12.75±2.97a	8.95±2.29ab	<0.001

**Table 2. RT-3DE and 2D-STI parameters.**

Values are expressed as mean±SD, median (interquartile range) or number (percentage). a P<0.05, vs. patients in control group, b P<0.05, vs. patients in paroxysmal AF group. LAVImax left atrial maximum volume index, LAVIp left atrial pre-atrial volume index, LAVImin left atrial minimum volume index, LATEF left atrial total emptying fraction, LAAEF left atrial active emptying fraction, LAPEF left atrial passive emptying fraction, LASr left atrial reservoir strain, LASct left atrial contraction strain, LAScd left atrial conduit strain.

**Table 3. Intraobserver and Interobserver variability of EAT thickness and left atrial phasic function parameters.**

Parameters	Intraobserver			Interobserver		
	ICC	95%CI	P value	ICC	95%CI	P value
EAT thickness	0.948	0.853~0.982	<0.001	0.888	0.699~0.961	<0.001
LAVImax	0.967	0.908~0.989	<0.001	0.944	0.686~0.984	<0.001
LAVIp	0.963	0.894~0.987	<0.001	0.948	0.773~0.984	<0.001
LAVImin	0.946	0.851~0.981	<0.001	0.938	0.764~0.981	<0.001
LASr	0.962	0.892~0.987	<0.001	0.954	0.872~0.984	<0.001
LASct	0.867	0.646~0.953	<0.001	0.869	0.664~0.954	<0.001
LAScd	0.943	0.837~0.980	<0.001	0.826	0.554~0.938	<0.001

EAT epicardial adipose tissue, LAVImax left atrial maximum volume index, LAVIp left atrial pre-atrial volume index, LAVImin left atrial minimum volume index,

LASr left atrial reservoir strain, LASct left atrial contraction strain, LAScd left atrial conduit strain.