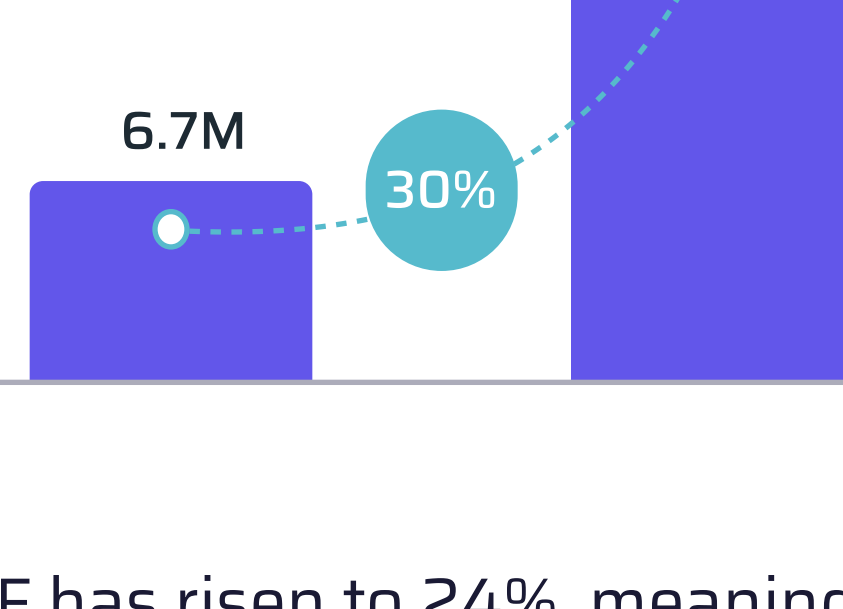


The Great Cardiac MRI Access Problem

How technologist shortages and long scan times prevent widespread adoption of gold-standard cardiac imaging

Cardiovascular Disease is the Top Cause of Death in the U.S.

Heart failure (HF) affects approximately 6.7 million Americans over the age of 20 – a number projected to **increase by 30% by 2030**.



The lifetime risk of developing HF has risen to 24%, meaning about 1 in 4 individuals **will experience heart failure at some point in their lives**.¹

Cardiac MRI is Gold-Standard Imaging

Cardiac MRI (CMR) is the most comprehensive imaging modality available, offering definitive insights into cardiac structure, function, and tissue characterization—all without radiation exposure.

The 2021 American Heart Association and American College of Cardiology guidelines recommend Cardiac MRI for the evaluation and diagnosis of chest pain.



The high spatial and temporal resolution of CMR makes it suitable for use in the assessment of right (RV) and LV, providing a comprehensive study that includes anatomical evaluation, functional data and great information about myocardial perfusion and viability.²

Novel Imaging Techniques for Heart Failure, Cardiac Failure Review, 2016

Cardiac imaging—especially echocardiography—has significantly enhanced the accuracy of diagnosing and treating heart conditions, and its increased use correlates with improved patient outcomes.

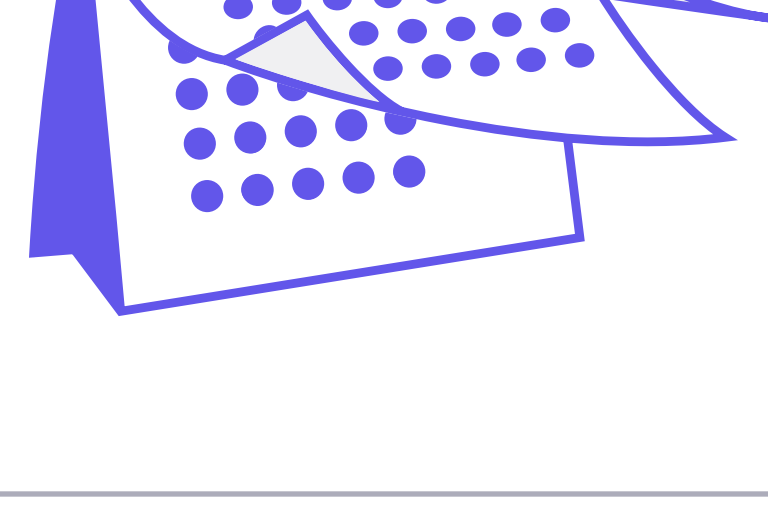
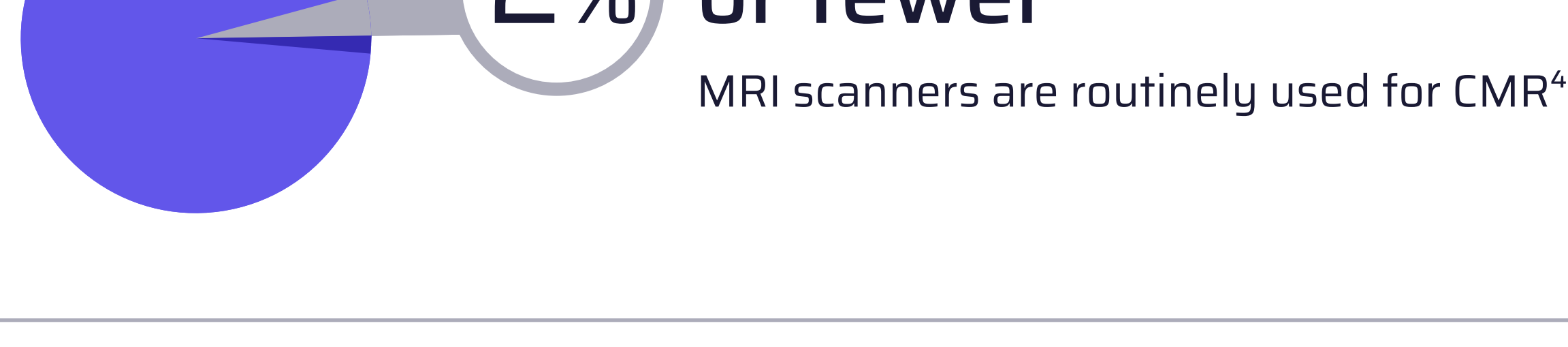
However, 10-15% of echocardiographic images are considered technically difficult, which can lead to uninterpretable studies. Ongoing issues around image quality and subjective assessments remain due to operator variability, patient habitus, and inherent ultrasound limitations.³

CMR has demonstrated superior quantification of major underlying conditions that can lead to heart failure, such as myocardial ischemia, cardiomyopathy, and vascular disease.

CMR offers comprehensive clinical diagnoses for:

- Heart Failure
- Coronary Artery Disease
- Myocardial Infarction
- Cardiomyopathy
- Myocarditis
- Mass vs. Thrombus
- Valvular Regurgitation
- Valvular Stenosis
- Amyloid / Infiltrative Disease
- Myocardial Iron Deposition
- Congenital Heart Disease

Cardiac MRI is Significantly Underutilized in the U.S.



Wait times for a CMR scan range from **2 weeks - 3 months**⁵



5x more CMR scans

performed in London than across the U.S. per million people⁶



Complexity and Specialized Training Hold Back Adoption of CMR

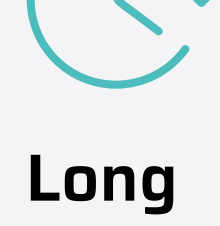


80%

of clinicians, in a recent SCMR survey⁷, cited the following as the biggest barriers to CMR adoption:



Technologist Training



Long Scan Times



Image Quality

Unlike other imaging modalities, CMR scanning is complex, requiring a skilled technologist with extensive training to perform it.

Many healthcare providers cannot meet that requirement:

18.1%

Staff Shortages

Not enough technologists to meet current CMR demands⁸

17.5%

Staff Turnover

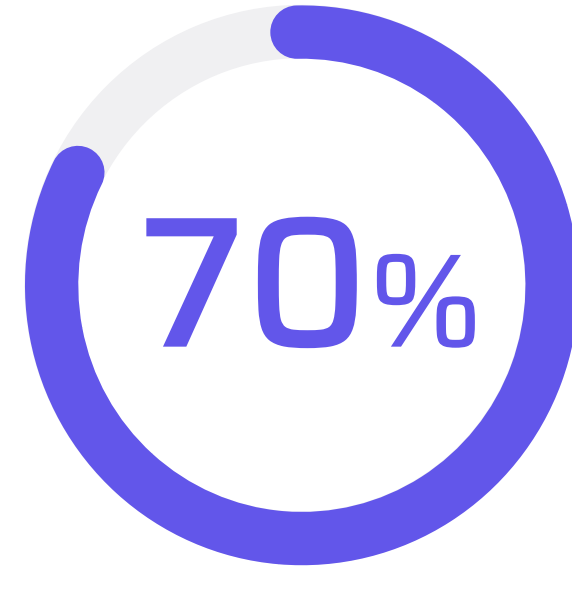
Demands on technologists to do more with less is driving burnout⁹

60-90 min

Long Scan Times

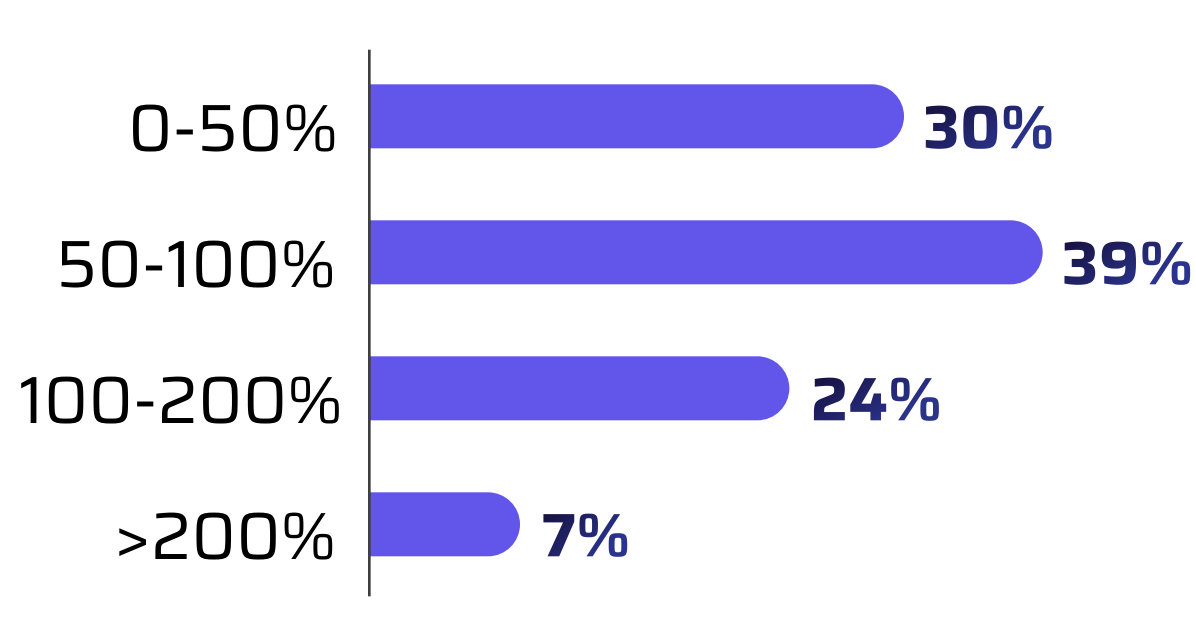
Unpredictable, long scan times create scheduling challenges

Unlocking CMR Growth: The Impact of Eliminating Key Barriers



of clinicians agree they could grow their annual CMR volume by 50% or more if they could shorten scan times, cut scan time variability, and ensure consistent quality regardless of technologist experience¹⁰

CMR Volume Growth



Vista AI Increases Access to CMR with AI-Driven Automation

Vista AI removes these access barriers with AI-driven software that automates and simplifies cardiac MRI scanning, enabling technologists of all skill levels to deliver high-quality images consistently and efficiently. By automating tedious tasks, hospitals and imaging centers can increase patient throughput without adding staff or procuring extra MRI machines.

It has already helped Brigham & Women's Hospital produce:

26%

Faster CMR scan times

50%

reduction in scan time variance

1-Day

access from a 28-day backlog with 50% more scan slots

Want to Make Gold-Standard imaging Your Standard of Care?

[Learn More](#)

Resources

- <https://vista.ai/cardiac-magnetic-resonance-imaging-making-gold-standard-the-standard-of-care/>
- Novel Imaging Techniques for Heart Failure, Cardiac Failure Review, 2016
- <https://vista.ai/cardiac-magnetic-resonance-imaging-making-gold-standard-the-standard-of-care/>
- businesswire.com/news/home/20241203825161/en/Two-Year-Data-Proves-Vista-Cardiac-Delivers-Faster-More-Reliable-MRI-Scans
- pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11663765/
- <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8581585/pdf/ruct.2021210156.pdf>
- 2025 SCMR Industry Partner Survey
- rsta.org/news/2024/october/radiologic-technologist-shortage
- <https://healthlogixbusiness.com/topics/healthcare-management/healthcare-economics/rising-patient-volumes-and-staffing-challenges-7-takeaways-new-salary-survey-radiologists-techs-and>
- 2025 SCMR Industry Partner Survey