**Table 2 Mean and standard deviation (σ) of DH of healthy discs for each lumbar level and each gender and age**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **age** | **20-30** | **30-40** | **40-50** | **50-60** | **60-70** | **70-90** |
| female | mean | L1L2 | 12.28  | 12.60  | 12.89  | 13.45  | 13.55  | 12.26  |
| L2L3 | 13.81  | 14.57  | 14.81  | 15.28  | 14.61  | 15.46  |
| L3L4 | 15.36  | 16.03  | 16.36  | 15.93  | 15.77  | 15.16  |
| L4L5 | 16.48  | 17.15  | 16.57  | 16.48  | 16.34  | 15.71  |
| L5S1 | 15.05  | 15.75  | 16.18  | 16.91  | 16.35  | 15.03  |
| std | L1L2 | 1.71  | 2.13  | 1.53  | 2.22  | 1.48  | 2.79  |
| L2L3 | 1.54  | 2.37  | 1.57  | 1.89  | 1.62  | 4.26  |
| L3L4 | 1.44  | 1.90  | 1.37  | 1.69  | 1.66  | 1.98  |
| L4L5 | 1.88  | 1.96  | 1.64  | 2.22  | 1.80  | 1.74  |
| L5S1 | 2.13  | 2.42  | 2.68  | 2.47  | 3.54  | 3.17  |
| male | mean | L1L2 | 13.30  | 14.11  | 14.54  | 15.40  | 14.70  | 13.90  |
| L2L3 | 15.02  | 16.24  | 16.15  | 17.13  | 16.68  | 15.93  |
| L3L4 | 16.56  | 17.51  | 17.49  | 17.26  | 17.14  | 16.29  |
| L4L5 | 17.34  | 17.89  | 18.00  | 17.71  | 17.16  | 15.84  |
| L5S1 | 15.37  | 15.96  | 16.21  | 16.89  | 17.68  | 15.87  |
| std | L1L2 | 1.47  | 2.30  | 3.04  | 4.75  | 3.94  | 2.10  |
| L2L3 | 2.42  | 2.78  | 2.11  | 4.60  | 3.75  | 4.07  |
| L3L4 | 1.73  | 2.14  | 1.80  | 2.67  | 2.34  | 1.61  |
| L4L5 | 2.02  | 2.30  | 2.09  | 2.15  | 2.34  | 2.77  |
| L5S1 | 2.23  | 2.38  | 2.44  | 2.46  | 2.56  | 3.44  |