**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 |