**Supplementary figure legend**

**Fig. S1** **Biphasic changes in LV posterior wall thickness of ZDSD rats.**

Thickness of the left ventricular posterior wall at (A) diastole (LVPWd) and (B) systole (LVPWs). \*p<0.05 ZDSD vs age-matched control SD rats.

**Fig. S2 Biphasic changes in LV cavity volume of ZDSD rats.**

(A) Diastolic and (B) systolic LVID, (C) EDV, (D) ESV, (E) SV and (F) CO of the LV. \*p<0.05 ZDSD vs age-matched control SD rats.

**Fig. S3** **Compromised LV contractility of ZDSD rats at 30 and 34 weeks during dobutamine stress test.**

(A) HR, (B) ESV, (C) EF%, (D) FS% of ZDSD rats and their SD controls at 5 min post dobutamine administration. (E) Representative echocardiographic image of LV viewed at long axis under M mode in ZDSD rats at 30 weeks’ old during dobutamine stress test. \*p<0.05, \*\*\*p<0.001 ZDSD vs age-matched control SD rats.





