Author's response to reviews

Title: Safety and efficacy of thrombectomy in patients undergoing primary percutaneous coronary intervention for Acute ST elevation MI: A Meta-Analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials

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Version: 3 Date: 3 June 2009

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Norton,

We would like to submit the attached manuscript “Safety and efficacy of thrombectomy in patients undergoing primary percutaneous coronary intervention for Acute ST elevation MI: A Meta-Analysis of randomized controlled trials” for consideration for publication in BMC Cardiovascular Disorders. Primary PCI has emerged as the preferred reperfusion strategy and the benefits of thrombectomy have been evaluated in multiple trials. Our paper provides a systematic analysis of the published data comparing the two strategies, defines the difference in outcome with various devices and highlights the increase in risk of stroke with thrombectomy.

We feel that our findings would be of major interest to the interventional community. First, our study highlights the differences between the various thrombectomy devices and suggests that the results of thrombectomy are highly dependent on the device used. Secondly, our analysis points to the increased risk of stroke seen with thrombectomy. We believe that the risk of stroke can be partially reduced with meticulous attention to
technique and widespread awareness of this complication would serve to reduce the occurrence of this devastating complication.

All the authors have contributed to and have approved the final manuscript and this manuscript has not been published or submitted elsewhere. The specific contributions of the authors are as below:

Conception and design- H Gurm, U Tamhane, S Chetcuti, I Hameed
Analysis and interpretation of data- H Gurm, U Tamhane
Drafting of the manuscript- U Tamhane
Revising it critically for important intellectual content- H Gurm, Mauro Moscucci, PM Grossman, S Chetcuti
Final approval of the manuscript submitted -all authors

Hitinder Gurm has been named as an inventor on patents filed by University of Michigan on devices that could potentially be used for thrombectomy. None of the other authors have any conflict of interest.

We would like to suggest Drs Dennis Ko (Division of Cardiology, Schulich Heart Centre and Department of Medicine, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada), Giuseppe G.L. Biondi-Zoccai (Interventional Cardiology Unit, San Raffaele Hospital, via Olgettina 60, 20132 Milan, Italy. gbiondizoccai@tiscali.it) and Antonio Abbate, MD (Division of Cardiology, 10025 Bellona Ct, Richmond, VA 23238. E-mail abbatea@yahoo.com) as potential reviewers. These researchers have considerable expertise in meta-analysis methodology, have published multiple systemic reviews and meta-analysis related to cardiovascular medicine and do not appear to have published on the subject of thrombectomy.

We hope you find this manuscript of interest and look forward to your thoughts. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide further information.

For the authors,

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