Author's response to reviews

Title: Monocytes and neutrophils expressing myeloperoxidase occur in fibrous caps and thrombi in unstable coronary plaques

Authors:

Fabio Tavora (ftavora@gmail.com)
Mary Ripple (ripplem@ocmemd.org)
Ling Li (ling01@aol.com)
Allen Burke (allen.burke@gmail.com)

Version: 2 Date: 7 May 2009

Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editor-in-chief,

Enclosed please find the revised manuscript entitled “Monocytes and neutrophils expressing myeloperoxidase occur in fibrous caps and thrombi in unstable coronary plaques”.

We appreciate the reviewer's comments and have made the changes in the revised form as outlined below. We hope the manuscript now meets approval for publication within BMC Cardiovascular Disorders.

Sincerely,

Allen Burke, MD
Associate Professor,
University of Maryland School of Medicine
Department of Pathology
22 S Greene St Room NBW64
Baltimore, MD 21201
Phone: 410 3285525
Fax: 4103285508

COMMENT 1 – As ad#1 and 7, reviewer notes that literature background is adequately set, yet a more emphasized structuring (e.g. with numbering) of questions and purposes would be advisable, like: ‘…(1) to corroborate Sugiyama
et al’s and Naruko’s finding…’ ‘(2) to quantitate MPO positive cells…’ ‘(3) to correlate numbers of MPO positive cells in thrombi…’.

The last sentence of the Introduction was changed.

COMMENT 2 – Last sentence of Discussion states that this work ‘…brings new data to the discussion of the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis initiation.’ Instead of the word ‘initiation’, the reviewer feels the word ‘progression’ more appropriate and consistent with the message of this paper.

The word was changed to "progression".

Minor Essential Revisions

COMMENT 3 – As ad#2 & 3, methods’ statements are adequate in general, notification of sampled major coronary arteries would however be necessary, in acknowledgement that hemodynamic circumstances may differ between main coronary arteries.

We agree with this important remark and have included a new Table, now Table 1, with data on the sample of arterial segments and location of lesions.

COMMENT 4 – As ad#2 & 3, mentioning whether if any interventionary pretreatment on sampled coronary vessels had happened seems an important and interesting issue that is missing altogether from the text and would be appropriate to complete. Correspondingly, a comparison between pretreated and non-treated vessel alterations would equally be interesting to make.

We agree on the impact on the intervention on the presented data, but no cases included in the study had history of recent or remote intra-arterial intervention. This information was included in the Methods.

COMMENT 5 – Identification letters ‘A’, ‘B’, ‘C’ and ‘D’ are missing from photomicrographs of Fig 5.

We apologize for the oversight, the letters were included.

COMMENT 6 – It seems that value ‘7’ has been misplaced to Line 12 instead of
Line 13, in Table 1, Column ‘Healing rupture’.

Yes, the number was corrected.

COMMENT 7 – For formal consistency with the other tables, it is recommended that Table 3 also contains division bars between table columns and lines.

The change was made.