Author's response to reviews

Title: Atherosclerotic ischemic renal disease. Diagnosis and prevalence in an hypertensive and/or uremic elderly population.

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Version: 2 Date: 22 Dec 2002

Dear Sir,

the following are the answers to the points raised:

1. The sentence has been changed according with your suggestion.

2. As a rule and according to the study protocol, all the selected patients were destined to both non invasive diagnostic techniques. Patients who skipped one of the two techniques did it for refusal to comply (with special regard for the isotopic exposure in RS) or for obesity or inadequate preparation to US evaluation.

3. Additional detail regarding MRA have now been added.

4. Demographics and clinical parameters of the patient groupes were comparable.

5. MRA has become a widely employed procedure. In the last few years during the study it was less available and still now is more expensive for our National Health System. DDS, provided in the hands of an experienced and capable operator, seems to us to be a first line screening approach. We have slightly modified the sentence of pag. 10

6. DSA has been corrected with SA (selective angiography) throughout in the manuscript.

7. Unilateral has been used instead of monolateral

8. Confidence intervals have been inserted in the text.

9. The failure rate of DDS is in the order of 4%.
Thank you for your suggestions, which have contributed to the improvement of the manuscript.

Giorgio Coen, M.D.

To Mr.B. Carstens

Dear Sir,

1. the title has been corrected to better identify the experimental population

2. sensitivity and specificity have been eliminated. Positive and negative predictive values were indicated with confidence intervals, according with your suggestions.

3. Tables I and II have been combined so as Tables IV and V

4. In spite of the transformations, no significance was found in the comparison between the biochemical parameters.

5. Improvement in rounding numbers has been introduced in the manuscript.

Thank you for the important suggestions provided.

Giorgio Coen, M.D.