Author's response to reviews

Title: Cardiopulmonary Bypass Has a Modest Effect on Cancer Progression in a Retrospective, Population-based, Propensity Score Adjusted Cohort Study.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
April 17, 2013

To whom it may concern:

I am submitting the attached manuscript entitled “Cardiopulmonary Bypass Has a Modest Effect on Cancer Progression in a Retrospective, Population-based, Propensity Score Adjusted Cohort Study” for editorial review. This is the first population-based multicenter cohort study of the effects of cardiopulmonary bypass on cancer prognosis which used robust propensity score modeling to adjust for baseline imbalances in important risk factors and which accounted for competing risks. The results of the study suggest there may be an association between CPB and cancer progression but, if real, the effect is likely modest at best. The authors feel the results will assure clinicians that the choice of cardiopulmonary bypass should be determined by other clinical considerations.

For this study, probabilistic record linkage was used to match records in several state-wide registries including 1) the New Jersey State Cancer Registry (NJSCR), which is a population-based SEER registry that collects data on all cancer cases diagnosed and/or treated in New Jersey, 2) the Myocardial Data Acquisition System (MIDAS), which includes hospital discharge records for patients with a myocardial infarction and other invasive cardiovascular procedures who have been admitted to New Jersey non-federal acute care hospitals, and 3) the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services Open-Heart Surgery Registry (OHSR), which includes open-heart surgery data required to be reported by NJ cardiac surgery hospitals necessary to maintain licensing. The NJ Cancer registry data were publically available for research purposes and access to the data were granted by NJ State Cancer Epidemiology Services. Access and permission to use the linked MIDAS and NJ Open Heart Surgery Registry data were provided by the Cardiovascular Institute at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

In accordance with ICMJE, all authors of this research paper have made substantial contributions to the conception and design of the study, data analysis and interpretation; have either participated in initial draft of the manuscript and/or revised the article for important intellectual content; and have read and approved the final version of the submitted manuscript. The contents of this manuscript have not been copyrighted or published previously, nor is the manuscript now under consideration for publication. There is no conflict of interest/funding for this study.

All correspondence regarding the attached manuscript can be sent to cathy.pinto@merck.com. I can be reached directly at 914-552-1736.

Sincerely,

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Attachments