Author's response to reviews

Title: Impact of on-site cardiac catheterization on resource utilization and fatal and non-fatal outcomes after acute myocardial infarction

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Version: 4 Date: 26 October 2006

Author's response to reviews: see over
October 8, 2006

Dear Dr. Phillips:

Please find enclosed our manuscript (MS: 7159060749899583) entitled “Impact of on-site cardiac catheterization on resource utilization and fatal and non-fatal outcomes after acute myocardial infarction” which we are resubmitting to BioMed Central for your review.

As you have suggested, we have softened our conclusions and have included our response to the reviewers below.

Thank you for your consideration of this manuscript.

Louise Pilote MD, MPH, PhD
Professor
McGill University
Response to Reviewer #1

No comments to response to.

Response to Reviewer #2

1. We appreciate the comments of this reviewer and agree with his fundamental criticism that there was an overall infrequent use of the invasive approach in both study groups. We have therefore edited our text accordingly, refraining from any conclusion or interpretation that might suggest our study was a comparison of the invasive versus non-invasive approach. Instead, we have focused on the main objectives of our study, which were to investigate how on-site catheterization affects use of non-invasive procedures, resource utilization and non-fatal outcomes. Our administrative database provides a unique opportunity to study these outcomes at the population level and, thus, we feel it warrants publication.

2. We also agree with the reviewer that our study does not provide complete information on all important outcomes, such as the burden of angina and heart failure symptoms on outpatients with CAD. Our revised text reflects only a comparison of outcomes for which we have studied, and does not extend interpretation to those we have not.