

**Author’s response to reviews**

**Title:** Utility of Carotid Duplex Ultrasonography in a general inner-city hospital

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**Author’s response to reviews:** see over
Dear Editors,

We are delighted to submit our manuscript titled: “Utility of Carotid Duplex Ultrasonography in a general inner-city hospital” to Cardiovascular Ultrasound Journal. This is a retrospective study of 827 consecutive carotid ultrasounds at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, a tertiary care center in New Jersey, USA. Being a high volume center in PCI and heart transplant, you will find that our research differs from previous studies in this area. The primary factor that motivated us to pursue this study was lack of consensus on when carotid duplex ultrasonography (CDUS) is appropriate in asymptomatic patients.

After completing this study, we found that CDUS was often used without evidence-based indications. We have demonstrated low yield of Carotid Ultrasound in patients below 65 years age, and patients presenting with syncope and non-focal neurological signs. Through our study results we aim to highlight the urgent need to develop better risk predictor model for detecting significant carotid artery stenosis in asymptomatic individuals.

All authors have participated in the work and have reviewed the content of the manuscript. This paper is not under consideration for publication in any other journal or has been published in any journal. We presented at earlier version of the manuscript as a poster at American Heart Association Council on Quality of Care and Outcomes Research Annual Meeting at Baltimore, Maryland, USA in June 2014.

We have listed acknowledgements including funding sources and conflicts of interest at the end of the manuscript. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

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