Title: The effects of beta-blockers on dobutamine-atropine stress echocardiography: early protocol versus standard protocol

Authors:
- Ana C Camarozano (camarozano@lagoadeitauna.com.br)
- Plinio Resende Jr (presende@barrador.com.br)
- Aristarco G Siqueira-Filho (asdb@uol.com.br)
- Luis H Weitzel (lweitzel@superig.com.br)
- Rosangela Noe (rnoe@uol.com.br)

Version: 2 Date: 1 July 2006

Author's response to reviews: see over
Abstract: I replaced Objective with Background.

I removed the abbreviation.

Explained the early protocol: “A or B (early protocol when atropine was administered at 10 and 20 mcg/kg/min of dobutamine, respectively) and C (standard protocol with atropine at 40 mcg/kg/min of dobutamine)”. 

Page 1: I removed qualification of authors (MD, FACC…) and put the names of the authors (Authors: Ana C Camarozano, Plínio Resende, Arístarco G. Siqueira-Filho, Luis Henrique Weitzel, Rosângela Noé) before other information.

I corrected the text using double line spacing and unjustified format.

Page 2: I removed: “In the present study we observed that”.

Page 3: I replaced: Introduction with Background

Page 3 and 4: I removed tabs.

Page 4: I inserted: “We have previously shown the feasibility and accuracy of early protocol of administration of atropine during dobutamine stress echocardiography [11]. When compared to the standard one, the early protocol is faster and diagnostically more accurate [11]”.

Page 5: I deleted: “The early dobutamine protocol research is a result of a previous study by the same author [11]”.

Page 5, line 5: I replaced CINE with angiographic

Page 7, line1/3: Corrected …“we can see” with “can be seen”.

In results I added comments on tables 4 and 5: Table 4 shows the level of significance of the statistical analysis for results, complications and interruption of test. We observed that patients not taking Beta-blockers presented a significantly higher proportion of negative results than those taking Beta-blockers. On the other hand, patients taking Beta-blockers showed significantly higher positive or inconclusive results compared to the patients without Beta-blockers. There was no difference between early and standard protocols in relation to complications. Table 5 shows the test accuracy for the early (A+B) and standard (C) protocol in patients who were submitted to angiography.

Page 8: I replaced: “tensional” with “blood pressure”, and “rennin” with “Rennin”.

Page 9: Discussion: I added the explanation about safety profile of early protocol: “We have previously shown that adverse effects did not increase in the early protocol [11] and others researches demonstrated a lower incidence of arrhythmia and general complications with the use of early protocol [25,26]”.

Page 10: Corrected: Conclusion with Conclusions.

Competing interests: Replaced: “The author has disclosed that she has no financial relationships or interests in any commercial companies pertaining to this study” with “The author(s) declare that they have no competing interests”.
Page 11: In Authors’ contributions I added: “All authors read and approved the final manuscript”.


References: I corrected and completed all references as indicated.

Page 13: Added “Figure legends” as a heading.

The tables have been removed from additional files and inserted in manuscript after figures and legends.