Author's response to reviews

Title: Common Carotid Artery Wall Thickness and External Diameter as Predictors of Prevalent and Incident Cardiac Events in a Large Population Study

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Version: 2 Date: 6 March 2007

Author's response to reviews:

Dear Dr. Picano:

We are pleased to provide the following changes in MS 317928314321824 entitled "Common Carotid Artery Wall Thickness and External Diameter as Predictors of Prevalent and Incident Cardiac Events in a Large Population Study" in response to suggestions by reviewers.

Responses to reviewers:

Reviewer 1:
1) As previously discussed we have not included imaging figures since this would not add substantially to the study and are not part of the limited access data. Dr. Gerardo Heiss has graciously offered to provide images if necessary.
2) We found the suggestion to include a survival curve particularly helpful. We have included the event free survival curves for men and women for four categories based on whether the IMT and diameter were large or not large based on the median values for IMT and diameters. We have therefore included a final paragraph under methods and results to include information on the curves. The findings made us reconsider whether we were emphasizing gender differences too much and so have revised other portions of the discussion as well.
3) We have defined the acronym LAD on page 4.

Technical revision:
We have added all authors' email addresses. We have added additional departmental affiliations for Dr. Mehta.
All references are number consecutively, placed inside the punctuation in square brackets. Each reference is listed separately in the bibliography. We have changed the formatting to fit the BMC style.

Other revisions: We have deleted the mention of the ARIC study in our title at the suggestion of Mr. Sean Coady at NHLBI.

We appreciated the opportunity to respond to the reviewer suggestions and hope that our revisions are satisfactory for our manuscript to be published in BMC Cardiovascular Ultrasound.

Sincerely,

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