Author's response to reviews

Title: Takotsubo Cardiomyopathy in a Caucasian Italian Woman: Case report

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Version: 2 Date: 31 March 2007

Author's response to reviews: see over
March 31, 2007

Eugenio Picano, MD
Editor-in-Chief
Cardiovascular Ultrasound

Re: Ms. No. 1097255900137161 Ver: 1 Takotsubo cardiomyopathy: the importance of being stressed

Dear Dr Picano:

Attached is our revised manuscript entitled “Takotsubo cardiomyopathy: the importance of being stressed”. In this letter, we responded to all of the concerns raised by the reviewers and, whenever possible, we revised the manuscript to take their comments into account. We are confident that the revisions made to the manuscript have considerably improved the presentation of our work. We wish to thank you and the reviewers for your constructive comments and hope that the revisions made to the manuscript will make it acceptable for publication in the Cardiovascular Ultrasound.

Sincerely,

Valerio Zacà, MD
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Response to Reviewer # 1:

This is a very well-documented case report on a typical case of Takotsubo cardiomyopathy. The report is well-written and easy to follow. Although not adding anything new to the existing literature, this report shows good images that perfectly exemplify the syndrome, and strengthen the idea that this peculiar condition is likely more common in post-menopausal women. Maybe, it would be interesting to add simple consideration on this topic, trying to discuss some pathophysiological features that could expain this prevalence.

We wish to thank the reviewer for his positive comments. Few lines discussing the potential pathophysiological mechanisms underlying the higher prevalence of the syndrome in post-menopausal women have been added in the conclusions section of revised manuscript.

Response to Reviewer # 2:

Very well written and beautifully illustrated case. I have only 3 very minor comments: 1- tile can be misleading (stress is a part of Tako-tsubo syndrome) : please change it and make it more descriptive) ; 2- please add some information on long-term follow-up, if possible;3- specify if testing for coronary vasospasm was done or not ; 4- quote and discuss some relevant references
on Tako tsubo in caucasian subjects. In particular, a review paper by Gianni M et al, Eur Heart J 2006.

We wish to thank the reviewer for his positive comments.

1 – We agree with the reviewer that stress is an intrinsic feature of takotsubo cardiomyopathy, accordingly the current title of the Case Report has been changed to: “Takotsubo cardiomyopathy in a Caucasian Italian woman: Case Report”.

2 – Regrettably no long term follow-up information is currently available.

3 – No test for coronary vasospasm was performed during coronary angiography, this is now stated in the revised manuscript.

4 – In agreement with the reviewer’s recommendation a comment on, as well as references to, published series of takotsubo in Caucasian subjects have been added to the revised version of the manuscript.