Author's response to reviews

Title: Prevalence and inter-relationship of different Doppler measures of dyssynchrony in patients with heart failure and prolonged QRS: A report from CARE-HF

Authors:

Magnus Edner (magnus.edner@ds.se)
Yong Kim (yong.kim@ki.au.dk)
Knud Norregard Hansen (knh@dadlnet.dk)
Henrik Nissen (h.nissen@dadlnet.dk)
Geert Espersen (ge@aas.nja.dk)
Karl LaRosee (karl.larosee@uni-koeln.de)
Fikru Maru (fikru.maru@ds.se)
Nick Freemantle (n.freemantle@bham.ac.uk)
John Cleland (j.g.cleland@hull.ac.uk)
Peter Sorgaard (petsog01@geh.regionh.dk)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Professor Eugenio Picano,

I hereby submit an article that I hope will be of interest for your journal; “Prevalence and inter-relationship of different Doppler measures of dyssynchrony in patients with heart failure and prolonged QRS: A report from CARE-HF.” The paper is not under consideration elsewhere and none of the papers content’s have been previously published. All authors have read and approved the manuscript. The authors listed have all contributed to the study according to your rules on authorship.

We really think this paper should be published in a journal with special interest in echocardiography. The CARE-HF trial is one of the biggest in the field of cardiac resynchronization therapy and the prevalence of dyssynchrony, which is suggested to be one of the most important issues concerning responders to treatment, is important to show the readers.

We found that the prevalence of intra-ventricular dyssynchrony is high (86%) in patients with heart failure, wide QRS and severely depressed systolic function. Combinations of dyssynchrony are less common but 85% of the patients with inter-ventricular dyssynchrony (IVMD) have also of intra-ventricular dyssynchrony. We also found more dyssynchrony in patients with cardiomyopathy compared to those with IHD and finally we recommend using Tissue Synchronization Imaging (TSI) to identify patients with intra-ventricular dyssynchrony since TSI appears to be a fast and reliable method to identify patients likely to benefit from biventricular pacing.

Sincerely

Magnus Edner MD, PhD
Div of Cardiovascular Medicine
Dep of Clinical Sciences
Karolinska Institutet Danderyd Hospital
SE-182 88 Stockholm
Sweden

magnus.edner@ds.se (e-mail)
+46 86556401 (tfn)
+46 86226810 (fax)
+46 704844705 (cell.)

I hereby send you the revised version of our ms. All suggested changes from the 2 reviewers and the Deputy Editor have been done and we hope you now will find the ms suitable for publication.
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Magnus Edner MD, PhD
Div of Cardiovascular Medicine
Dep of Clinical Sciences
Karolinska Institutet Danderyd Hospital
SE-182 88 Stockholm
Sweden

magnus.edner@ds.se (e-mail)
+46 86556401 (tfn)
+46 86226810 (fax)
+46 704844705 (cell.)