Author's response to reviews

Title: Hypercholesterolemia and Myocardial Function Evaluated Via Tissue Doppler Imaging Jack Rubinstein M.D.*, Augusta Pelosi DVM*, Ameeth Vedre M.D**, Pavan Kotaru M.D**, George S. Abela M.D., M.Sc, F.A.C.C** +From the Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Cardiovascular Diseases, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH * From the College of Veterinary Medicine, Small Animal Clinical Sciences, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI **From the Department of Medicine, Division of Michigan State University, B 208 Clinical Center, East Lansing, MI 48824 Support was provided in part from Merck-Schering/Plough, Michigan State University (IRGP147) and Sparrow Hospital, Lansing, MI Short title: Hypercholesterolemia and Myocardial Dysfunction Key words: Hypercholesterolemia, Myocardial Dysfunction, Tissue Doppler Imaging Abstract word count: 241 Total word count: 2066 Tables: 2 Figures: 1 Conflicts of Interest: Grant from Merck-Schering/Plough

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Author's response to reviews: see over
October 23, 2009.

To the Editors.

Re: MS: 5384069953064734. Hypercholesterolemia and Myocardial Function Evaluated Via Tissue Doppler Imaging

We appreciate the comments made by Drs. Sicari and Pasanisi. We have made several modifications in response to their insight. Specifically:

Comments by Dr. Sicari:

1. We mentioned briefly in the introduction the relationship of hypercholesterolemia coronary artery disease in the original report. We have now added separates comments on microvascular dysfunction associated with hypercholesterolemia particularly in regards to its probable effects on the endothelium in both the introduction and the discussion sections.
2. We agree that it is not a very strong correlation, hence we removed the word “strong” and changed the words “could” and “would” for “may” and also added “is associated with”. All of the preceding in the discussion section.
3. Ezetimibe therapy decreased serum cholesterol to levels near the chow fed group and also had very similar myocardial function measurements. We clarified this in the discussion.
4. (a) We did not find significant discrepancies regarding the measurements between the echosonographers and the two blinded physicians. Each measurement was obtained initially by the echosonographer and subsequently evaluated by the blinded readers; the average was obtained and used for the study. We have clarified this in the methods and in the results section. (b) The technical difficulty in obtaining images on the 3 rabbits has been clarified in the text (the image resolution at the mitral annulus was not adequate for TDI analysis).
5. We agree and are happy to oblige.

Comments by Dr. Pasanisi:

No specific changes were suggested. We appreciate his evaluation.

Sincerely,

Jack Rubinstein and Pavan Kotaru on behalf of the authors