Author's response to reviews

**Title:** Comparison of cerebral oximetry (INVOS) in cardiac surgery vs. vascular surgery patients. A prospective observational study

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**Version:** 2  **Date:** 9 January 2010

**Author's response to reviews:** see over
To the Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Cardiothoracic Surgery

January 9, 2010

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are submitting a manuscript to be considered for possible publication in the Journal of Cardiothoracic Surgery. It is an observational study conducted on patients undergoing elective cardiac or vascular surgery at the Ioannina University Hospital. The study consists of baseline data collection regarding INVOS (cerebral oximetry) values in these patients while breathing room air, before any sedation or other anesthetic intervention. The study consisted of data collection and analysis only, without any intervention related to these data. Data collection was approved by the Institution Ethics Committee and all patients gave written informed consent before their data were recorded.

We believe this study deserves publication because, despite its methodological shortcomings which we discuss in the text, it provides some clinically relevant information, explores associations between cerebral oximetry and cardiovascular risk factors, and compares two patient cohorts with significant comorbidities, in a well defined, homogeneous population.

All authors listed have substantially contributed to this manuscript, have reviewed the document submitted, and take responsibility for its content. This work was financially supported solely by department funds, and all authors state they have no conflict of interest to report.

Thank you for your consideration,

The Authors
COVER LETTER TO JOURNAL OF CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY

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