Author's response to reviews

Title: Variety of transversus thoracis muscle in relation to the internal thoracic artery: an autopsy study of 120 subjects

Authors:

Lazar Jelev (ljelev@abv.bg)
Stanislav Hristov (hristov_forensic@yahoo.com)
Wladimir Ovtscharoff (ovcharov@medfac.acad.bg)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors-in-Chief,

Herewith, I am sending the manuscript entitled “Variety of transversus thoracis muscle in relation to the internal thoracic artery: an autopsy study of 120 subjects” by L. Jelev, S. Hristov and W. Ovtscharoff, which we would like to submit for publication in JOURNAL OF CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY as Research Article.

Our manuscript presents a detailed study on the morphology of the transversus thoracis muscle in 120 autopsy subjects. Despite being a little appreciated anatomical structure, this thin muscular layer has a close relation to the internal thoracic artery, a superior graft for CABG surgery. While the data from this study will no change the practice of routine artery harvesting, the thorough knowledge about the transversus thoracis anatomy may give some clues about the initial locating of the artery and also may provide useful data for minimally invasive and endoscopic artery harvesting.

Authors’ statements:
1. All authors of this research paper have directly participated in the planning, execution, or analysis of this study.
2. All authors of this paper have read and approved the final version submitted.
3. The contents of this manuscript have not been copyrighted or published previously.
4. The contents of this manuscript are not now under consideration for publication elsewhere.
5. There is no ethical problem or conflict of interest between the authors of the manuscript.

We hope that our manuscript will be of interest to Your journal.
I look forward to hearing from You,

Sincerely yours,

Lazar Jelev, MD, PhD

Department of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology
Medical University of Sofia
blvd. Sv. Georgi Sofiiski 1
BG-1431 Sofia
Bulgaria
Tel.: +359-2-91-72-636
Fax: +359-2-851-87-83
E-mail: ljelev@abv.bg