Response to Letter Regarding “Catheter Ablation of Atrial Fibrillation in Patients With Left Ventricular Systolic Dysfunction: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis”

We thank Petretta1 for his appreciation of our recent meta-analysis published in Circulation: Arrhythmia Electrophysiology2 and for giving us the ability to clarify some aspects concerning the statistical analysis.

Our meta-analysis is based on several observational and a few randomized studies in which the incidence of the recorded outcomes are reported, as correctly highlighted by Dr Petretta, as percentages. However, logarithmic transformations were applied to the event rates, to improve symmetry of the data for analysis. In addition, logarithmic transformation of the data permits, with the use of the software (RevMan) used for the present analysis, comparison of incidences by odds ratios, to reduce the risks inherent in skewed data3,4 in case data for each individual patient from each individual study is not available.

In conclusion, we were aware of the potential methodological weaknesses of the studies included, several of which were not randomized and did not have individual patient-level analysis.5 To reduce the risk of errors, we chose to perform the analysis with the most conservative statistical method.

Disclosures

None.

References

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Circ Arrhythm Electrophysiol. 2015;8:246
doi: 10.1161/CIRCEP.115.002697
Circulation: Arrhythmia and Electrophysiology is published by the American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75231
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Print ISSN: 1941-3149. Online ISSN: 1941-3084

The online version of this article, along with updated information and services, is located on the World Wide Web at:
http://circep.ahajournals.org/content/8/1/246

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