



Letter to the Editor

Response to letter from Picichè: The microvascular network connecting extracardiac arteries to the heart



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We would like to thank Dr. Picichè for his interesting comments regarding our work [1]. We agree that the inability to visualize the coronary microcirculation in vivo in humans at present represents a major challenge. If one could overcome this limitation, surely the understanding of the coronary microcirculation would improve with potential consequences for diagnosis and therapy. As mentioned by Dr. Picichè, recurrent or refractory angina is a challenging problem not only in patients with obstructive coronary artery disease [2] but also in patients with microvascular angina [3]. Various approaches have been tested to relieve angina in such patients [4]. The concept of diverting blood flow to ischemic regions or increasing oxygen is not new; and apart from internal mammary artery ligation, the coronary sinus device represents one form of such treatment [5]. Whether or not such treatment may be beneficial in patients with microvascular, angina still remains to be elucidated. In addition to these thoughts, we would like to stress that the aim of our paper was to raise

awareness among clinicians that microvascular angina could be the cause for the patient's symptoms. We have therefore detailed practical, clinically available tests to achieve a diagnosis of coronary microvascular angina.

Disclosures

The authors report no relationships that could be construed as a conflict of interest.

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