Response 2: Relationship between the Red Cell Distribution Width and One-year Outcomes in Patients with Stable Angina Pectoris in a Chinese Population

Key words: inflammatory markers, red cell distribution width, coronary heart disease


The Authors Reply In a Letter to the Editors of Internal Medicine, Dr. Sevket Balta et al. stated that measuring the levels of markers of inflammation, including high-sensitivity C-reactive protein, natriuretic peptides and neurohormones, and markers of remodeling and oxidative stress is beneficial for determining the diagnosis and prognosis (1) of patients with coronary heart disease (CHD). We agree that it would be favorable to assess these inflammatory markers.

It is a long-term and arduous task to understand why and how CHD progresses. Inflammatory markers, as well as genetic factors, changes in life style and other factors should be included in such research.

A history of anemia or blood transfusions was one of the exclusion criteria applied in our study. However, it was very difficult to exclude all patients with possible relevant factors, especially in a large population. In a future study, we should include as many factors as possible in order to make our conclusions more credible and persuasive.

Of course, measuring the red blood cell distribution width (RDW) alone without taking into consideration other factors, such as inflammatory indicators, may not provide exact information regarding the inflammatory status and prognosis of the patient (2). In future research, we plan to include more related factors in our experimental design.

We excluded as many patients with relevant factors as possible.

Relevant factors, such as ethnicity, neurohumoral activation, renal dysfunction, thyroid disease, hepatic dysfunction, nutritional deficiencies, inflammatory diseases, chronic or acute systemic inflammation (3) and the use of various medications, were ruled out at the beginning of our study.

Finally, it is our fault that we did not clarify the timing of the RDW measurements. As a supplement to our research, we reported 30 minutes as the time limit for measuring the RDW value, which we believe will not result in abnormal results.

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

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References


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