Myocardial Gene Transfer for Patients With Myocardial Ischemia

To the Editor:

The report by Losordo et al\(^1\) concerning myocardial gene transfer for patients with myocardial ischemia is promising. However, I believe their report merely demonstrates safety and does not provide substantial “evidence for a favorable clinical effect of direct myocardial injection of naked plasmid DNA encoding for VEGF [vascular endothelial growth factor].”\(^1\) The clinical outcomes are equally compatible with placebo effects that result from surgical procedures.

Excitement often accompanies new cutting-edge scientific advances. This enthusiasm seems to be especially communicated through innovative surgical procedures.\(^2\) Cardiovascular disease seems especially susceptible.\(^3\) The results reported in this phase I clinical study do not exceed outcomes reported from the 2 late-1950s randomized controlled trials comparing internal mammary artery ligation with sham operation.\(^4,5\) In these trials, subjective improvement was dramatic, especially in the sham procedure, and objective evidence, although more primitive by today’s standards, was substantial.

Ted J. Kaptchuk
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Boston, Mass

Myocardial Gene Transfer for Patients With Myocardial Ischemia
Ted J. Kaptchuk

Circulation. 1999;100:e108
doi: 10.1161/01.CIR.100.22.e108
Circulation is published by the American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75231
Copyright © 1999 American Heart Association, Inc. All rights reserved.
Print ISSN: 0009-7322. Online ISSN: 1524-4539

The online version of this article, along with updated information and services, is located on the
World Wide Web at:
http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/100/22/e108

Permissions: Requests for permissions to reproduce figures, tables, or portions of articles originally published
in Circulation can be obtained via RightsLink, a service of the Copyright Clearance Center, not the Editorial
Office. Once the online version of the published article for which permission is being requested is located,
click Request Permissions in the middle column of the Web page under Services. Further information about
this process is available in the Permissions and Rights Question and Answer document.

Reprints: Information about reprints can be found online at:
http://www.lww.com/reprints

Subscriptions: Information about subscribing to Circulation is online at:
http://circ.ahajournals.org/subscriptions/