Atorvastatin and Clopidogrel

To the Editor:

I would like to comment on the recent editorial by Serebruany et al in which the study results by Lau et al are discussed. It is argued that these results, which are suggestive of a clinically relevant interaction between clopidogrel and atorvastatin, are in conflict with those published previously by Serebruany et al. According to the editorial, “...only 4 of 25 patients in the atorvastatin-treated group did not exhibit sustained platelet inhibition...” From their original publication, however, it is clear that 25 is the total number of patients receiving any statin and that the number of patients receiving atorvastatin is 9. Other numbers cited in the editorial do not compare well with the original data either. The subgroup analyses of these data that were presented in the editorial were not presented in the original paper, which precludes the reader from assessing the statements made.

As these points are crucial to the argumentation made in the editorial, the apparent discrepancy between the cited data in the editorial and the original data warrants clarification.

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Response

Dr Damkier correctly notes a discrepancy between the cited data in the editorial and the original PRONTO data and requests clarification.

The data cited in the editorial are correct but refer to our preliminary analyses of INTERACTION (abstract accepted for presentation at the European Society of Cardiology Meeting in Vienna, Austria, August 30 through September 3, 2003, and Serebruany et al). The correct PRONTO data are as follows. Overall, 4 of 25 patients did not exhibit sustained platelet inhibition. The distribution by statin therapy was 2 of 9 for atorvastatin, 1 of 6 for fluvastatin, 1 of 4 for pravastatin, 0 of 3 for cerivastatin, 0 of 2 for lovastatin, and 0 of 1 for simvastatin.

We are grateful to Dr Damkier for drawing our attention to the inadvertent error in transcription that caused the discrepancy.

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