Letter to the Editor

Letters to the Editor will be published, if suitable, as space permits. They should not exceed 1,000 words (typed double-spaced) in length and may be subject to editing or abridgment.

Mitral Valve Prolapse and Regurgitation

The study by Wilcken and Hickey in Circulation and the accompanying editorial comment by Devereux indicated that mitral valve prolapse (MVP) leads to severe mitral regurgitation (MR) much more frequently in men than in women. Both studies seemed to attribute the sex difference to higher blood pressure in men than women, as suggested by Roberts. However, Roberts' conclusion that the number of persons with both MVP and systemic hypertension in the United States was substantial was recently challenged by Holgado and Prakash, who found MVP in only one of 133 patients (0.75%) with hypertension. Therefore, the reason that significant MR occurs more frequently in elderly male patients with MVP whereas MVP per se is more frequent in younger women remains an enigma. Despite many advances made in recent years in epidemiologic, diagnostic, and prognostic studies of MVP, much more research work needs to be done.

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(Circulation 1989;79:196)

Erratum

Original equation supplied by Little et al, “Response of the Left Ventricular End-Systolic Pressure-Volume Relation in Conscious Dogs to a Wide Range of Contractile States” (Circulation 1988;78:736–745), on page 738 should have been:

\[ V_{O,N} = \frac{(-b + \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac})}{2a} \]
Mitral valve prolapse and regurgitation.
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Circulation. 1989;79:205
doi: 10.1161/01.CIR.79.1.205
Circulation is published by the American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75231
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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/79/1/205.citation

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