Reply: Asymptomatic Cerebral Lesions After Carotid Artery Stenting May Not Predict Future Cerebrovascular Events But May Be Associated With Cognitive Impairment

We thank Drs. Paraskevas and Giannoukas for their appraisal of our work (1).

The purpose of our study was to analyze the impact of post-procedural asymptomatic cerebral ischemic lesions on diffusion-weighted magnetic resonance imaging (DW-MRI) after carotid artery stenting (CAS) on the hard endpoints of death, stroke, and myocardial infarction, which, to the best of our knowledge, has not been done before.

We completely agree that 1 limitation of our study is that neuropsychological testing was not performed. This, however, is very important because it is a matter of debate whether these lesions negatively affect cognitive function. We are thankful to Drs. Paraskevas and Giannoukas for drawing our attention to a small but very interesting study (2) that was published after our paper was submitted. This paper and other only recently published work (3) are important findings admonishing us to take those “asymptomatic lesions” seriously.

Obviously, we are just beginning to understand the meaning of these findings and we agree with the authors that neuropsychological testing should be implemented in future studies on the impact of asymptomatic cerebral lesions in DW-MRI either after CAS or carotid endarterectomy.

Klaudija Bijuklic, MD
Andreas Wandler, MD
Thilo Tuebler, MD
*Joachim Schofer, MD, PhD

*Hamburg University Cardiovascular Center
Wöhrmannsweg Weg 25-27
22526 Hamburg
Germany
E-mail: schofer@herz-hh.de

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