

# Response to Letter to Editor: Effect of Transradial Catheterisation on Patency Rates of Radial Arteries Used as a Conduit for Coronary Bypass



To the Editor,

We would like to thank Mounsey et al. [1] for their encouraging words with regard to our study. A few queries regarding our analysis have been raised.

The first question is regarding how the surgeons are aware of radial artery catheterisation, as they tend to avoid the utilised artery for a bypass graft. Usually, in our hospital, the surgeons do a consultation for coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG) right after the diagnostic coronary angiogram in the catheterisation lab holding area and thus are well aware of the access site. Also, our hospital has a higher than national average of utilisation of radial artery bypass grafts and therefore the surgeons pay close attention to the utilisation of radial artery access.

The second very important question raised by the authors is regarding details of mean target vessel stenosis in each group and breakdown of rates of different coronary arteries targeted by CABG grafts in each group. This question is important, as competitive flow is known to affect graft patency. We don't have the mean target vessel stenosis calculated, however, we have addressed this very valid concern in our analysis. In Table 1 of our publication we have shown that the percentage of native target vessels grafted which had insignificant stenosis (<70%) was exactly equal in both groups (19%). This would indicate that competitive flow leading to loss of graft patency would be similar in both groups and not confound our results.

The third interesting question is regarding a comparison of reasons for follow-up imaging as patients with symptoms

will likely have more loss of graft patency. Unfortunately, due to the retrospective nature of our analysis, we were not able to do a meaningful objective comparison of reasons for follow-up imaging between the two groups.

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## Reference

- [1] Mounsey CA, Mawhinney JA, Werner RS, Taggart DP. In regard to: effect of transradial catheterisation on patency rates of radial arteries used as a conduit for coronary bypass. *Heart Lung Circ* 2018;27(3):e19–20. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.hlc.2017.03.161>.