

References

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[Four of the authors respond:]

Although Warren Cantor and Laurie Morrison suggest that primary PCI may be superior to fibrinolysis, the converse may be true in the early hours after symptom onset, and this remains an important and unresolved issue.^{1,2} Facilitated PCI should encompass a broader definition than prior fibrinolytic therapy alone, as articulated in the recent guidelines: “Facilitated PCI refers to a strategy of planned immediate PCI after an initial pharmacologic regimen such as full dose fibrinolysis, half dose fibrinolysis, a GP [glycoprotein] IIb/IIIa inhibitor or a combination of reduced dose fibrinolytic therapy in a

platelet GP IIb/IIIa inhibitor.”³

We commend Cantor and Morrison for their involvement in the TRANSFER-AMI study and await with interest its results, as well as those of the large ASSENT IV (Assessment of the Safety and Efficacy of a New Treatment Strategy for Acute Myocardial Infarction) and FINESSE (Facilitated Intervention with Enhanced Reperfusion Speed to Stop Events) studies, as they relate to the issue of facilitated PCI.⁴ If these studies demonstrate positive results, it will be important to consider the resource implications and ensure, at a minimum, the targeting of high-risk patients.

Cathal O'Donnell and Richard Verbeek opine that we have not considered the challenges for emergency services related to achieving a 60-minute transfer for PCI. Unfortunately, *CMAJ* space restrictions precluded discussion of this issue in our case-based report,⁵ but our broader discussion of the topic has recently been published elsewhere.¹ We agree that enhancement of EMS should occur *pari passu* with enhanced tertiary and quaternary care for such patients. For maximal resource efficiency, we believe that the STEMI algorithm in Fig. 2 of our *CMAJ* article⁵ provides a useful destination template.

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Correction

In a recent article in the Practice section,¹ the chemical structures of hydroquinone and homogentisic acid should have been drawn as 6-membered rings, and not as 8-membered rings.

Reference

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