The insightful editorial by Molinari begins to shed light on a fundamental question in cerebrovascular research. As he stated, many therapeutic developments have shown great promise in the laboratory only to be found to have insignificant effects in clinical trials. Unfortunately, his conclusions and proposed solution to this problem are scientifically unsound in several ways.

Dr. Molinari proposes to solve the problem of clinical failure of treatments for stroke by measuring a nonclinical variable, namely, lesion size. It is indeed quite reasonable to assume that the preservation of tissue is better than its destruction. However, mere preservation of tissue, no matter how clear on imaging studies, cannot bring vision to amaurotic hemifields, make a parietic arm move, or restore speech to the aphasiac. Measurement of comparative neuropathology in humans, although interesting in itself, is not directly relevant to the treatment of
Short-term results of carotid endarterectomy.
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The online version of this article, along with updated information and services, is located on the World Wide Web at:
http://stroke.ahajournals.org/content/20/5/699.1.citation