

# Letter to the Editor

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## Response by Merkler et al to Letter Regarding Article, “Safety Outcomes After Percutaneous Transcatheter Closure of Patent Foramen Ovale”

### In Response:

We thank Drs Omer Zaman, Patel, and Mojadidi for their interest in our study. We evaluated the rate of serious adverse outcomes after patent foramen ovale (PFO) closure for secondary stroke prevention in a large, heterogeneous cohort of patients from California, New York, and Florida between 2005 to 2013. We identified 1887 patients who underwent PFO closure for secondary stroke prevention. The rate of any adverse outcome occurring during the index hospitalization for PFO closure was 7.0% (95% confidence interval [CI], 5.9%–8.2%). The rate of adverse outcomes in patients >60 years of age was 10.9% (95% CI, 8.65%–13.6%) as compared with 4.9% (95% CI, 3.8%–6.3%) in patients ≤60 years of age ( $P<0.001$ ). In addition, the rate of adverse events in patients with the highest quartile of medical comorbidities was 13.3% (95% CI, 10.0%–17.3%) as compared with 5.1% (95% CI, 3.5%–7.1%) in patients with the lowest quartile ( $P<0.001$  for trend across quartiles).<sup>1</sup> Our findings in patients ≤60 years of age provide reassurance about the real-world safety of PFO closure similar to that found in clinical trials, but the rate of adverse events in patients >60 years of age highlight the importance of following the trials’ inclusion criteria when selecting appropriate patients for PFO closure.<sup>2,3</sup>

### Disclosures

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