
To the Editor,

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to Dr. Zucker’s letter.

We disagree with Dr. Zucker’s statement that the appropriate activating clotting time (ACT) was not chosen for the study. The ACT chosen is in the applicable clinical range over a wide variety of applications and any system must be able to accurately determine levels within this range.

We also disagree that the level of variation would have no impact on clinical decision-making. As clinicians we respond to trends in values and when multiple complex variables are involved, differences of 10% can be extremely important in decision-making.

Dr. Zucker suggests repeating this study in a more elaborate fashion. This study was conducted independent of industry support with volunteer donor blood (JWO) and donated time. Supplies and Institutional Review Board charges were supported by the Division of Cardiovascular Surgery research funds. We would welcome the interest of appropriate parties to support a more involved repeat study.

Finally, we would respectfully request that Dr. Zucker reveal any present or past financial support from any of the companies tested. We stipulate that we have not received any support at any time from the involved vendors.

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