P.A. is a speaker for Medtronic and Edwards Lifesciences.

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REPLY FROM AUTHORS: THE PPM CHART: A NEW TOOL TO ASSESS PROSTHESIS-PATIENT MISMATCH PROBABILITY

BEFORE AORTIC VALVE REPLACEMENT

Reply to the Editor:

We thank Vriesendorp and colleagues¹ for their letter discussing prosthesis-patient mismatch (PPM) after aortic valve replacement and the new PPM Chart proposed by the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery-Society of Thoracic Surgeons-American Association for Thoracic Surgery Valve Labelling Task Force.¹ They raise important issues that require attention.

First, it is important to outline the fundamental differences between traditional indexed effective orifice area (EOAi) charts and the new PPM Chart. Traditional EOAi charts calculate the mean expected EOAi to classify expected PPM as severe (typically red fields), moderate (yellow fields), or absent/mild (green fields), based on this value falling under or above a predefined cutoff. This seemingly attractive simplicity comes with a serious and established tradeoff in terms of reliability.^{2,3} In contrast to traditional EOAi charts, the new PPM Chart proposed by the Valve Labelling Task Force provides the calculated percent probability of expected severe PPM based on the distribution of

normal reference effective orifice area (EOA) values. By providing a percent probability, the new PPM Chart is meant to correct, at least in part, the inaccuracy of traditional EOAi charts, which classify expected PPM merely as a binary outcome (present vs absent). However, we agree with Vriesendorp and colleagues¹ that because PPM charts are based on in vivo reference EOAs, characteristics of the population in which these EOA values were determined could influence their accuracy.

Second, Vriesendorp and colleagues¹ question the validity of current definitions for PPM, which are based on EOAi cutoffs.^{4,5} Although these cutoffs might be challenged,⁶ it is logical that the assessment of PPM after aortic valve replacement employs EOAi cutoffs determined by echocardiography^{4,5,7} because the severity of native aortic stenosis is also assessed using similar, echocardiography-derived criteria.^{8,9} The mandate of the Valve Labelling Task Force was not to challenge or revise existing PPM definitions, but rather help surgeons to estimate the risk of severe PPM at the time of a procedure, while highlighting the limitations of PPM prediction using reference EOAs.

Finally, Vriesendorp and colleagues¹ discuss the potential danger of unnecessary aortic annulus enlargement procedures due to expected PPM based on the new PPM Chart suggested by the Task Force. Indeed, traditional EOAi charts (Figure 1, A) could potentially push surgeons to perform preventive procedures during AVR if the patient falls into the red areas (ie, severe PPM), although these procedures may not always be necessary nor justified. The new PPM Chart proposed by the Valve Labelling Task Force provides percent probability of severe PPM. These charts are thus more granular and far less categorical and dictatorial than traditional EOAi charts (Figure 1, B). We believe that these new charts can help surgeons to make more balanced and better informed decisions when selecting prosthetic valves or choosing a treatment strategy for their patients.

Andras P. Durko, MD^a

Philippe Pibarot, DVM, PhD^b

Ruggero De Paulis, MD^c

On behalf of the EACTS-STSAATS Valve Labeling Task Force

^aDepartment of Cardiothoracic Surgery
Erasmus University Medical Center
Rotterdam, The Netherlands

^bQuébec Heart and Lung Institute
Laval University

Québec City, Québec, Canada

^cHeart Surgery Division

European Hospital
Rome, Italy

FIGURE 1. Assessing expected prosthesis-patient mismatch (PPM) using traditional indexed effective orifice area (EOAi) charts and with the new PPM Chart. Example charts for the same valve model. A, Traditional EOAi charts are trichotomous (red = severe PPM, yellow = moderate PPM, and green = no PPM) and categorize expected PPM as a binary outcome (present or absent). B, The new PPM chart provides the percent probability of expected severe PPM. Note the differences in how expected PPM is expressed with the traditional EOAi chart and with the new PPM chart, for a patient with a body surface area (BSA) of 1.7 m² (light blue boxes). Using percent probability to describe expected PPM highlights the limitations of using reference effective orifice areas in PPM prediction and could lead to better-informed decisions when considering annular enlargement procedures. BMI, Body mass index.

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