

RESPONSE LETTER

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Title: Riata silicone defibrillation lead with normal electrical measures at routine ambulatory check: the role of high-voltage shock testing.

Authors: Elia De Maria MD, PhD; Ambra Borghi MD; Lorenzo Bonetti MD; Pier Luigi Fontana MD; Stefano Cappelli MD.

Affiliation: Cardiology Unit, Ramazzini Hospital, Via Molinari 1, Carpi (Modena), Italy, postcode 41012.

Corresponding author: Elia De Maria, MD, PhD, Chief of Arrhythmology Lab, Ramazzini Hospital, Via Molinari 1, 41012, Carpi (Modena), phone +39059659320, fax +39059659387 e-mail: e.demaria@inwind.it

POINT-BY-POINT RESPONSE

- 1) A copy of the **revised manuscript** has been submitted with the other required documents
- 2) **Answering reviewers.** The reviewers gave a positive judgment of the manuscript. *Reviewer 00214291* stated it was an “interesting article”, Classification C (Good), Language Evaluation A (Priority Publishing), Conclusion “High priority for publication”. *Reviewer 02520239* stated it was a “comprehensive discussion about management of Riata defibrillator lead”, Classification C (Good), Language Evaluation A (Priority Publishing), Conclusion “Accept”. *Reviewer 00227548* stated “it was a very important study.... on a very important issue...”, Classification B (Very Good), Language Evaluation A (Priority Publishing), Conclusion “Accept”.
- 3) **Copyright assignment.** It has been submitted with the other required documents.
- 4) **Scientific research process.** *What did this study explore?* The study explores a possible way to deal with patients with Riata defibrillator lead, which have a unique failure

mechanism and whose management is complex and often carried on individual basis.

How did the authors performed all experiments and how did the authors deal with the pre-study hypothesis? It was a retrospective observational study. Patients were treated according to local clinical practice, so they underwent defibrillation and shock testing of the device when the treating physician considered it clinically appropriate. Thereafter we *retrospectively* collected clinical data of all patients with Riata leads and evaluated whether defibrillation/shock testing had an impact on clinical outcome. *What are the novel findings of this study?* In Riata leads the delivery of a low current during routine measurement of high-voltage impedance may not reveal a small short circuit, that can only be evident by attempting to deliver a true shock, either for spontaneous arrhythmias or in the context of a shock testing. Defibrillation testing (or alternatively synchronized shock) should be considered an important tool to check Riata integrity.

5) **Audio Core Tip.** It has been submitted with the other required documents.

6) **Institutional Review Board Statement.** It has been submitted with the other required documents. The study was approved by the Institutional Board of our Department (Ethical Committee of Modena Province, Italy).

7) **Informed Consent Statement.** It has been submitted with the other required documents.

8) **Biostatistic Statement.** According to the nature of the study no particular statistical method was used.

9) **Conflict-of-interest statement.** It has been submitted with the other required documents. The authors report no relationships that could be construed as a conflict of interest.

10) **Data sharing statement.** It has been submitted with the other required documents. Technical appendix, statistical code, dataset available from the corresponding author at

e.demaria@inwind.it

- 11) **Google Scholar.** We checked the title and stored a screenshot of the results.
- 12) **CrossCheck.** We did not check the manuscript because one should become a member of Crossref and *pay a fee* to access the program.
- 13) **Grant Application form.** It is not necessary; the manuscript is not supported by any foundation.
- 14) **Language certificate.** Even if I was born in Italy I am a Native Speaker of English as it was usually spoken in my family since I was born.

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Signature



Dott. ELIA DE MARIA
Specialista in Cardiologia
Cod.Reg. 902479