

Authors' Reply

To the Editor:

Benedek and colleagues note that African American patients had more medical comorbidities and were more likely to receive treatment from hospitals that were either academic or had percutaneous coronary intervention capabilities. We agree that this is an interesting observation. To separate the potential for confounding from this and other differences in the populations, we controlled for hospital characteristics (including teaching status) and medical comorbidities. In addition, we utilized the generalized estimating equation in our models to account for clustering of hospitals.

The authors also note that the median door-to-balloon (DTB) time is higher in females than in males. They question whether this could impact the observation that there were gender-specific racial disparities. We agree with the observation that the median DTB is higher in females than males; however, these small differences in the groups would not affect the ability to show significant differences in either median DTB or the proportion of women who have a DTB ≤ 90 minutes.

Matthew A. Cavender, MD, MPH
TIMI Study Group
Heart and Vascular Center Brigham and Women's Hospital
and Harvard Medical School
Boston, Massachusetts

Andrew N. Rassi, MD
Department of Medicine
Lee H. Schwamm, MD
Department of Neurology
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

Gregg C. Fonarow, MD
Department of Medicine
Ronald Reagan–UCLA Medical Center
Los Angeles, California

Christopher P. Cannon, M.D.
Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School
Senior Physician, Cardiovascular
Division, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston MA
Executive Director Cardiometabolic Trials
Harvard Clinical Research Institute

W. Frank Peacock, MD
Department of Emergency Medicine
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, Texas

Warren K. Laskey, MD, MPH
Department of Medicine
University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Adrian F. Hernandez, MD
Eric D. Peterson, MD, MPH
Margueritte Cox, MS
Marie Grau-Sepulveda, MD
Duke Clinical Research Institute,
Durham, NC

Deepak L. Bhatt, MD, MPH
Heart and Vascular Center,
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Harvard Medical School
Boston, MA