







## Prevalence of rare visceral aneurysms

### *Prevalência de aneurismas viscerais raros*

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Dear Editor,

We read with attention the article entitled “Prevalence of rare visceral aneurysms on 92,833 CAT scans (2005-2021)”, which we consider an essential contribution to the academic community, and we congratulate the authors on conducting the study. However, certain structural and interpretative weaknesses merit attention.

Analyzing the study aims, we observed that the only objective outlined by the authors was to evaluate the prevalence of rare visceral aneurysms. The article appears to aim to increase use of computed tomography angiography, which could be considered iatrogeny in the absence of any plausible medical justification.<sup>1,2</sup> As such, it is important to analyze how conducting computed tomography angiographies to determine prevalence rates of visceral aneurysms would change clinical outcomes for patients, in order to avoid exposing them to additional diagnostic tests which may be irrelevant to their health.<sup>1-3</sup>

The authors state that 158 patients with visceral aneurysms had a total of 163 aneurysms, but, at another point in the article, mention 163 patients with visceral aneurysms, which hampers comprehension of the information and statistical data presented.

Finally, we congratulate the journal and the esteemed authors for producing and publishing this paper, given

its relevance to the scientific community, considering the small number of studies dealing with the subject.

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## ■ RESPONSE LETTER

Dear Readers,

Initially, we would like to thank you for your attentive comments and pertinent considerations on our manuscript “Prevalence of rare visceral aneurysms on 92,833 CAT scans (2005-2021)”, published in the *Jornal Vascular Brasileiro*. We are also grateful to you for valuing the subject covered and for your recognition of the study’s relevance to the scientific community.

With regard to the observations made, we present our explanations below:

### 1. On the study objective:

We understand the concerns expressed in relation to the possibility of encouraging indiscriminate use of computed tomography angiography. However, as mentioned in the article, the objective of the study was to assess the prevalence of rare visceral aneurysms in a retrospective cohort of scans conducted for a diverse range of clinical indications, not to encourage use of such examinations with no specific indication. Our intention in analyzing these data was to understand the incidence of these aneurysms in a large real-world sample from clinical practice, offering a foundation for future reflections on the magnitude of the problem. We acknowledge the importance of clarifying this point and if there is an opportunity to correct the text or publish an addendum, we would be pleased to explain in the text that by no means do we recommend indiscriminate screening, rather, we conduct analysis of a preexisting sample of scans conducted for clinical reasons.

### 2. With regard to the inconsistency in the descriptions of the numbers of patients and aneurysms:









We are grateful to you for drawing attention to the inconsistent description. After careful review, we can confirm that the correct numbers are 158 patients with rare visceral aneurysms, with a total of 163 aneurysms between them. There was in fact an error at the point where “163 patients” were mentioned, since the text should have stated “163 aneurysms”. If possible, we are also very willing to correct this point in the main text and/or in an erratum.

### 3. With regard to the clinical impact of the findings and patient outcomes:

The study objective was exclusively to conduct an epidemiological evaluation of the prevalence

of rare visceral aneurysms, based on examinations conducted for a variety of reasons, without extending the analysis to the clinical outcomes related to these discoveries. We agree that the issue of the impact of these findings on clinical management is relevant, but we must emphasize that this is well beyond the scope of the study. We do, however, recognize that this is an important research gap that should be addressed in future studies, which could correlate these prevalence rates with direct clinical outcomes.

Once more, we are grateful for your careful reading and for the valuable contributions which, undoubtedly, contribute to enhancing the debate on this subject that has still received little attention in the literature.

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