

Comment on: DiChiara et al. (2007) The Effect of Aspirin Dosing on Platelet Function in Diabetic and Nondiabetic Patients: An Analysis From the Aspirin-Induced Platelet Effect (ASPECT) Study: *Diabetes* 56:3014–3019, 2007

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I read with interest the recently published study (1) comparing antiplatelet potency of three aspirin doses in the diabetic and nondiabetic cohorts of the Aspirin-Induced Platelet Effect (ASPECT) trial. The study represents a post hoc analysis of the original ASPECT study published elsewhere (2). The attempts of the authors to exploit the original database by further analyses are valuable, especially when an important clinical message cannot fit within the framework of the main article. However, the reporting of baseline data in these two ASPECT publications raises concerns and deserves further scrutiny. Indeed, most of the numbers presented in Table 1 for both publications do not match. The differences are outlined in Table 1 of this letter.

Surprisingly, the only matched variables for both studies

were age, weight, and the number of diabetic subjects. After attempts to perform comprehensive statistical analyses, taking into account the complicated crossover design of ASPECT provided in the original article (1), it is not possible to gain an understanding of the true database. In fact, such discrepancies may challenge not only the quality of the second analysis published in *Diabetes* but also the primary ASPECT report.

REFERENCES

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2. Gurbel PA, Bliden KP, DiChiara J, Newcomer J, Weng W, Neerchal NK, Gesheff T, Chaganti SK, Etherington A, Tantry US: Evaluation of dose-related effects of aspirin on platelet function: results from the Aspirin-Induced Platelet Effect (ASPECT) study. *Circulation* 115:3156–3164, 2007

TABLE 1
Baseline data

Parameter	ASPECT-Diabetes, <i>Diabetes</i> 2007 (ref. 1)	Original ASPECT, <i>Circulation</i> 2007 (ref. 2)
<i>n</i>	120	120
Age (years)	65 ± 10	65 ± 10
Men	65	80
Weight (lbs)	195 ± 52	196 ± 51
Caucasian	73	79
Family history of CAD	38	40
Smoking (previous or current)	38	46
Hypertension	65	73
Hyperlipidemia	83	100
Diabetes	30	30
Prior AMI	18	25
Prior CABG	31	36
Prior PTCA	33	39
β-Blockers	56	69
ACE inhibitors	52	57
Lipid-lowering therapy	76	96
Creatinine (g/dl)	1.1 ± 0.6	1.0 ± 0.2
Platelets (×1,000/mm ³)	225 ± 67	237 ± 62

Data are means ± SD or *n* unless otherwise indicated. AMI, acute myocardial infarction; CABG, coronary artery bypass graft; CAD, coronary artery disease; PTCA, percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty.

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