

Right Heart Thrombi Treatment



To the Editor:

We greatly enjoyed reading the recently published article by Barrios et al.¹

The authors identified a total of 325 patients with symptomatic pulmonary embolism and coexisting right heart thrombi during the 15-year study period. Of these patients, 255 (78%) received anticoagulation alone and 70 (22%) received anticoagulation plus systemic thrombolysis. The results of this study of patients presenting with acute symptomatic pulmonary embolism and coexisting right heart thrombi suggest that there is no significant difference in mortality and major bleeding outcomes between reperfusion therapy and anticoagulant therapy. Interestingly, of the patients who received thrombolytic treatment, 6.2% had a venous thromboembolism recurrence during the study follow-up period in comparison with 0% of those who solely received anticoagulation ($P = .049$). Moreover,

recurrent pulmonary embolism within 30 days of diagnosis occurred in 4 patients (5.7%) who received reperfusion therapy, and in 2 patients (0.8%) who received sole anticoagulation therapy ($P < .01$). We would like to learn the authors' explanation of the reason for this unexpected observation.

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Reference

1. Barrios D, Chavant J, Jiménez D, et al; the RIETE investigators. Treatment of right heart thrombi associated with acute pulmonary embolism. [e-pub ahead of print]. *Am J Med*. 2016. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.amjmed.2016.11.027>.

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