Reply to: Intraprocedural Distal Embolization After Femoropopliteal Angioplasty: Is There a Role for Below-the-Knee Stents? A Statistical Analysis Point of View

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To the Editor,

We read with great interest the letter entitled “Re: Intraprocedural Distal Embolization after Femoropopliteal Angioplasty: Is There a Role for Below-the-Knee Stents? a statistical analysis point of view” commenting on our recently published manuscript [1]. We would firstly like to thank the authors of the letter for their comments. We need to accept that after reviewing our data, the use of a multivariable logistic regression analysis to assess the correlation between the factors that were associated with stent deployment was actually underpowered due to small sample size and a descriptive or univariate analysis would probably have been a more suitable analysis method. Nevertheless, this observation does not appear to change anything of what is currently stated in the paper. In fact, the only variable that was associated with the outcome (stent deployment) was CLI, which for a small number of patients is an obvious conclusion given that all six patients that received a stent suffered from CLI. This result may also be confirmed with a descriptive analysis. Specifically, when

we run a univariate analysis, only CLI was associated with the likelihood of stent deployment, whereas target vessel occlusion and single-vessel run-off were not. Thus, even with a descriptive, univariate analysis, the results of the paper are the same. Obviously, with a small number of patients, statistical power is low, and therefore we appreciate the comment.

Compliance with Ethical standards

Conflict of interest The authors state that they have no conflict of interest.

References

1. Krokidis M, Ali T, Hilliard N, Shaida N, Winterbottom A, Koo B, See TC. Intraprocedural distal embolization after femoropopliteal angioplasty: is there a role for below-the-knee stents? *Cardiovasc Intervent Radiol.* 2017;. doi:[10.1007/s00270-017-1621-5](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00270-017-1621-5) [Epub ahead of print].

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