Dear Editor:

My coauthors and I submit a manuscript entitled,***“Association of Increased Pulsatility Index of the Basilar Artery with Neurological Deterioration after Stroke”*** for consideration in the “***Original Articles”*** section of ***“Journal of Clinical Neurology”*** We certify that all the authors have read and approved the submission of the manuscript, and no work resembling the enclosed article has been published or is being submitted for publication elsewhere. We certify that we have all made substantial contributions so as to qualify for the authorship. I take complete responsibility for the data, analyses, and interpretations, and conduct of the research. I am supported by the research grant from the Ministry of Science and Technology, Republic of Korea, and the other coauthors have no financial interests to disclose.

Increased arterial stiffness of the middle cerebral artery (MCA) among lacunar stroke patients is known to be related with neurological deterioration, although transcranial Doppler (TCD) ultrasonography cannot be applied to the patients with a poor temporal window. In this study, we investigated whether basilar artery (BA) pulsatility index (PI) measured by TCD ultrasonography is associated with neurological deterioration (ND) among 708 patients with acute cerebral infarction. When the patients were categorized into quartiles according to BA PI, the proportion of patients with ND showed an increasing tendency with an increase in BA PI quartile. Correlation analysis between MCA PI and BA PI showed a significant positive correlation (Pearson’s r = 0.757, p < 0.001). Multivariable logistic regression analysis for variables, including age, sex, vascular risk factors, serum homocysteine level, and cerebral atherosclerosis burden, of brain CT angiography revealed that the highest BA PI quartile was independently associated with ND (odds ratio = 2.06, confidence interval = 1.04–4.09, p = 0.039).

We thank you for your time and consideration of our manuscript. We look forward to hearing your response.

Sincerely,

Jeong-Min Kim, MD, PhD

Department of Neurology, Seoul National University Hospital, Seoul National University College of Medicine, 101, Daehak-ro, Jongno-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Tel: +82-2-2072-2278

Fax: +82-2- 3672-7553

AND

Kwang-Yeol Park, MD, PhD

Department of Neurology, Chung-Ang University Hospital, Chung-Ang University College of Medicine, Seoul

224-1, Heukseok-dong, Dongjak-gu, Seoul 156-755, Korea

Tel: +82-2-6299-1502

Fax: +82-2-6299-1493

E-mail: kwangyeol.park@gmail.com