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### **Perioperative coronary spasm reported in Japanese journals**

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To the editor: I read with interest the article by Drs. Koshihara and Hoka [1]. In their investigation, the contributing factors affecting perioperative coronary spasm were elucidated by a survey of the articles published in Japanese journals.

Why, though, were journals limited to those in Japan? There are many reports of perioperative coronary spasm in Japanese patients in the English-language literature world-

wide, as the authors noted. Such reports should be included to elucidate the characteristics of perioperative coronary spasm in the Japanese as an ethnic group, or all reports worldwide should be surveyed to elucidate the general characteristics of this condition.

### **Reference**

1. Koshihara K, Hoka S (2001) Clinical characteristics of perioperative coronary spasm: reviews of 115 case reports in Japan. *J Anesth* 15:93-99

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### **Re: Clinical characteristics of perioperative coronary spasm: reviews of 115 case reports in Japan**

#### **Kenichiro Koshihara and Sumio Hoka**

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*In reply:* We appreciate the letter from Dr. Mizutani who is interested in our article. He asked why our research survey did not include reports of perioperative coronary spasm in Japanese patients that were published outside Japan. As described in the "Methods" section of our article, we did not limit the data to reports in journals published in Japan. We

included reports found from searching Medline (1968-1998), as well as those in non-indexed Japanese journals. Thus, about 20 case reports in English on Japanese patients were found in citation-indexed journals from the Medline database.

As pointed out in the letter, there may be differences in the racial characteristics of perioperative coronary spasm. However, our study aimed to elucidate the clinical characteristics of perioperative coronary spasm only in Japanese patients. Therefore, racial characteristics, if any, remain to be elucidated.

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