

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

With reference to the original article "In Vitro Comparison Test of Three LV Vent Valves" by Lewis, et al (JECT Vol. 22 No. 3, 1990, pp. 125-130), the summary of results of Test C seems to contradict the diagrammatic representation of the text.

Test C was designed to simulate either a reversed pump head or the pump tubing reversed in the LV vent roller.

In the diagram labelled "Test C Backflow" (p. 126), it would seem that the Healthdyne valve has a lower pressure (approximately 40mmHg before venting to atmosphere) while the text would seem to indicate that the Omni valve had the above characteristics. At numerous sections of the text, the authors stressed that the Omni valve would be the valve of their choice due to this particular characteristic (i.e., not allowing air to reach the heart).

If the graph was consulted only without reference to the text, one might get an improper perspective of the characteristics of each valve.

Yours sincerely,
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Dear Editor,

Unfortunately, the graphs do not tell the whole story and you cannot just analyze them to come to any conclusion. In our comparison of the three LV vent valves in Test C, we also submerged the distal barbs under water and found that the American Omni valve was the only one not blowing bubbles (allowing air to escape around valve and into the heart). In our opinion, this was the most significant result of the whole study, and does not show up in the statistics or graph section of the paper.

Gregory S. Lewis, CCP