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To Whom It May Concern:

This is to certify that *Pisano Calogera* has attended the Aortic Symposium 2012, held on April 26-27, 2012 at the Sheraton New York Hotel & Towers in New York, NY, USA.

April Conti

April Conti
Meeting Manager
Aortic Symposium 2012



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AORTIC SYMPOSIUM

APRIL 26–27, 2012

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Presentation on Demand (POD)

Abstract 17

A Particular Phenotype of Ascending Aorta Aneurysms as Precursor of Type A Dissection

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Objective: Identification of a phenotype of ascending thoracic aortic aneurysm (TAA) than more than the others evolve into type A dissection (TAD).

Methods: Aortic specimens were obtained from patients undergoing surgical repair of TAA (n = 108) and TAD (n = 26). Histopathological and immunohistochemical analyses were performed using adequate tissue specimens, appropriate techniques and criteria

Results: We identified three phenotypes of TAA: *phenotype I* (cystic medial degeneration balanced by a substitutive fibrosis, in absence of medial apoptosis and with a faint collagenases concentration), *phenotype II* (cystic medial degeneration higher grade respectively than substitutive fibrosis, with focal medial apoptosis and moderate collagenases concentration), and *phenotype III* (elevated cystic medial degeneration without substitutive fibrosis, with plurifocal medial apoptosis and severe collagenases concentration). Same medial degenerative lesions of TAA phenotype III were observed in TAD tissue samples.

Conclusions: Morphologic identity of medial lesions observed in the TAA phenotype III and in TAD permitted to suppose that it might be represented the precursor of dissection independently of aneurysm diameter or valvular disorder. Identification of genetic risk factors useful both in diagnostics and developing more targeted treatment for individual patients were, hence, detected.