

Aspirin anyone?

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Office of the President and Dean

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Dr. Robert Ringler
Acting Director
National Heart and Lung Institute
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Bethesda, Maryland 20014

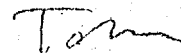
Dear Bob:

I have heard from Chris Klimt that there are early, but significant, differences in mortality between the aspirin and placebo patients in the C.D.P.A. As you may remember, I was instrumental in putting the C.D.P. into this area after I had heard from my former colleague, Hershel Jick, that the Boston drug survey program had turned up a reduced incidence of aspirin ingestion in patients with myocardial infarct.

I understand from several sources that there is a possibility the funding for the C.D.P.A. will stop soon. I think it would be a grave error to stop while the results are still borderline. The C.D.P. clinics are well organized and will take a long time to replace. Furthermore, it will probably never again be possible to test patients who had their myocardial infarctions a long time ago. If the A.M.I.S. study should also reveal a difference, there will then be data on both ends of the time spectrum.

My apologies for writing to you about a subject which, normally, is handled so beautifully through channels at the NIH; but I would want to emphasize how terribly important I think the aspirin question is, and how essential it is to have data from multiple clinical trials when such long term decisions will have to be made.

Sincerely,



Thomas C. Chalmers, M.D.
President and Dean