



Response to the comment by Dr. Shimizu

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The summary of findings by Dr. Shimizu and his collaborators is highly appreciated [1]. His comment is of great help to understanding the concept that an appropriate level of CD34-positive cells for each person may be associated with vascular health. He also pointed out the pitfalls of functional atherosclerosis. Since CD34-positive cells are not easily and routinely measured, I hope further studies will clarify the mechanisms of endothelial repair, establish the pathophysiological significance of CD34-positive cells, and advance the clinical applications for cardiovascular disorders.

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The author declares no competing interests.

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Reference

1. Shimizu Y. Comment on “Does body height affect vascular function?”. *Hypertens Res.* 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41440-022-00887-3> in press.

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