studies will need to carefully consider the method of temperature measurement chosen.

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Reply to “Hypothermia in Open-Water Swimming Events: A Medical Risk That Deserves More Attention”

To the Editor:

We thank Castro and Nobrega for their interest in our article. Their paper¹ published shortly after ours² serves to further highlight the potential for the development of hypothermia during endurance open-water swimming. Although they studied a smaller, elite athlete group, the race conditions were similar to those we encountered. Their reported hypothermia rate of 83% (10 of 12 subjects) is very high but is likely, at least to some extent, to be explained by their use of infrared emission detection tympanic thermometers. Our experience³ and that of others⁴ is that these devices overestimate the incidence of hypothermia and are not a suitable tool for screening for hypothermia in swimmers. We concur with them that “hypothermia is a great potential medical risk during open-water swimming events” and that “more studies evaluating preventive measures are therefore warranted.” The caveat we would add is that such