Author's response to reviews

Title: Patients with femoral or distal forearm fracture in Germany: a prospective observational study on health care situation and outcome

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND
Distal radius and proximal femoral fractures are typical injuries in later life, predominantly due to simple falls, but modulated by other relevant factors such as osteoporosis. Fracture incidence rates rise with age. Because of the growing proportion of elderly people in Western industrialized societies, the number of these fractures can be expected to increase further in the coming years, and with it the burden on healthcare resources. Our study therefore assessed the effects of these injuries on the health status of older people over time. The purpose of this paper is to describe the study method, clinical parameters of fracture patients during hospitalization, mortality up to one and a half years after discharge in relation to various factors such as type of fracture, and changes in mobility and living situation.

Methods
Subjects and facilities
.....The recruitment and research protocols were reviewed and approved by the ethic committee of the Bavarian state medical association and the trial was undertaken in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki.....