Author's response to reviews

Title: High short-term and long-term excess mortality in geriatric patients after hip fracture: a prospective cohort study in Taiwan

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Dear Editor-in-Chief:

Please consider our original article “High short-term and long-term excess mortality in geriatric patients after hip fracture: a prospective cohort study in Taiwan” for publication in BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders.

Although it is generally acknowledged that hip fracture may result in a high mortality rate, primary studies on its associated excess mortality are still lacking, and the question of long-term excess mortality after hip fracture remains controversial. To address these questions, we conducted a primary prospective study comparing patients with and without hip fracture. We analyzed short-term and long-term excess mortalities after hip fracture with adjustment for other risk factors. As part of our study, we estimated the population attributable risk proportion (PARP) of each risk factor for excess mortality. We recruited 217 elders with hip fracture and 215 age- and sex-matched non-fractured patients from the same hospital and followed them for up to 57 months. After adjustment for the potential risk factors, we concluded that hip fracture by itself is associated with significant short-term and long-term excess mortality. Having the highest PARP, hip fracture was the leading risk factor for the excess mortality. We hope this paper will help to call attention to the importance of hip fracture prevention and its adequate treatment.
All authors have been fully involved in the study and the preparation of the manuscript. The study was presented as a poster at the Geriatric Fracture section at ISFR 2012 13th biennial conference, Kyoto, Japan. The work has not been published elsewhere.

The manuscript has been submitted online, as required by the journal. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

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