Author's response to reviews

Title: Outcomes after Fixation for Undisplaced Femoral Neck Fracture Compared to Hemiarthroplasty for Displaced Femoral Neck Fracture among Elderly

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

We would like to submit our enclosed manuscript entitled "Outcomes after Fixation for Undisplaced Femoral Neck Fracture Compared to Hemiarthroplasty for Displaced Femoral Neck Fracture among Elderly" for your consideration for publication in the BMC MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS. We declare that we have no conflict of interest.

The study aims to explore the mortality, medical and surgical complications after surgery for femoral neck fracture using competing risk analysis of inpatients aged 60 years and above from the population database in Taiwan. Most previous studies for readmissions or reoperations often did not consider the competing risk of death.

Several prospective studies or clinical trials reported mortality and reoperation rates simultaneously after fixation or hemiarthroplasty for displaced fractures. Most of these studies could not find significant difference in mortality. Our results implied that the overall mortality of undisplaced femoral neck fracture treated with fixation is significantly lower than that of displaced femoral neck fracture treated with hemiarthroplasty. In addition, the cumulative incidence of the first surgical complication of fixation for undisplaced fracture was significantly higher than that of hemiarthroplasty for displaced fracture.

This retrospective matched cohort study investigates the aforementioned relationships using claims data from a national health insurance database, which consists of anonymous secondary data made available to the public for research purposes. Thus, this study was exempted from a full review by the local ethics review committee.

All authors have participated in the preparation of this manuscript, and are responsible for the contents of reported research. We have reviewed and approved the final version of the manuscript prior to submission. To the best of our knowledge and belief, this manuscript has not been published in whole or in part nor has it been considered for publication elsewhere. We believe this paper may be of particular interest to the readers of your journal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,
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