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Propensity scores in intensive care literature

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Dear Editor,

We read Gayat et al.'s [1] systematic review of propensity scores in intensive care literature with great interest. Using the search terms "propensity score OR propensity," these authors searched seven journals, including the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine* (AJRCCM), for clinical observational studies published between 1 January 2006 and 31 December 2009, and found four articles in AJRCCM.

On reproducing their search in PubMed and in the AJRCCM's web

site, we found two apparent mistakes: first, the manuscript by Wisnivesky et al. [2] (reference 74) was published in 2010 rather than in 2009, and thus should not have been included in the analysis; second, the manuscript by Ferrer et al. [3], which used propensity scores to analyze the effectiveness of all treatments for severe sepsis included in the Surviving Sepsis Campaign care bundles in a nonexperimental clinical setting, was published in 2009 and should have been included.

If there is any exclusion criterion that affects the manuscript by Ferrer et al., it should be stated in the methods section. If not, the analysis should be revised to include the appropriate manuscripts. Although we agree with the authors' final conclusions, we have doubts about the inclusion criteria for the review, considering that at least one important manuscript was excluded.

References

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