Reply to commentary to: factors influencing endoscopic dacryocystorhinostomy outcome

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Dear Editor,

We thank the reviewers for their comments on our article entitled “Factors influencing endoscopic dacryocystorhinostomy outcome” [1]. There are other factors apart from the four factors listed in the article (age, obstruction site, stent insertion and duration of symptom). Based on the number of cases and failure rate, only four predictive variables could have been fitted reliably for logistic regression analysis in the study [2]. We thought that the four factors mentioned above were more likely to be associated with the outcome than other factors including operator and anatomical variations of the nasal cavity.

In our series, simultaneous endoscopic sinus surgery was performed in only four cases accompanying sinusitis, and septoplasty was performed in 21 cases to enable access to the surgical site. Performing septoplasty was not associated with poor outcome (odds ratio 0.51, 95% confidence interval 0.11–2.28, $p = 0.377$).

We followed patients for at least 6 months after surgery except in rare cases where the wound healing was apparently good and further follow-up seemed unnecessary. Two

surgeons performed the surgeries and the outcomes were not significantly different (odds ratio 0.78, 95% confidence interval 0.25–2.39, $p = 0.665$). Subjective symptoms were completely cured in 85.0% (181/213) of sides and improved in 93.9% (200/213) of sides. Objectively, DCR closed in 4.2% (9/213) of sides.

We agree that there are a myriad of factors contributing to poor outcome. Due to limited patient numbers, only four factors were analyzed.

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Ethical approval All procedures performed in studies involving human participants were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional research committee and with the 1964 Helsinki declaration and its later amendments. This study is a retrospective chart review.

References

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