

Reply to: Walley KC, Appleton PT, Rodriguez EK (2017): Comparison of outcomes of operative versus non-operative treatment of acetabular fractures in the elderly and severely comorbid patient, Eur J Orthop Surg Traumatol 27(5):689–694

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Dear Sir,

We read the above-mentioned publication with interest. The author had chosen a good topic as comparative study in this age group for acetabular fractures is rarely published nowadays. However, there are certain limitations that need to be clarified.

The *test of normality* for numerical variables was not mentioned in the study because length of stay which has been analysed in this study has a classical skewed distribution rather than a normal distribution [1]. The author has used the Student's *t* test which has a pre-requisite that the variable must be normally distributed. If the outcome variable is not normally distributed, a nonparametric test such as Mann–Whitney *U* test or a transformation of the outcome variable should have been done [2].

The *follow-up period* as mentioned by the author ranges from 1 month to 60 months with the mean of 14 months, indicating that there were patients who had follow-up period of just 1 month following treatment and were still part of study. These patients should have been excluded, and if not, there should have been a mention of number of such patients who were part of study and if any such patients required

conversion to THA. May be these patients with such a short follow-up might have required THA within 1 year if minimum follow-up period would have been at least 1 year.

Exclusion criteria would have been widened to exclude the three periprosthetic fractures and four pathological fractures which were part of study, along with the previously mentioned short follow-up period patients.

Thank you

References

1. Barton B, Peat J (2014) Descriptive statistics. In: Barton B, Peat J (eds) Medical statistics: a guide to SPSS, data analysis and critical appraisal, 2nd edn. Wiley, London, pp 24–51
2. Barton B, Peat J (2014) Comparing two independent samples. In: Barton B, Peat J (eds) Medical statistics: a guide to SPSS, Data analysis and critical appraisal, 2nd edn. Wiley, London, pp 52–89

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