Age and Charlson Score: A Reply

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TO THE EDITOR:

We thank Dr. Froehner and coworkers for their commentary that Charlson comorbidity index (CCI) was a significant predictor of mortality after radical prostatectomy even in men aged 65 years or older, unlike our results. In our study, we postulated that CCI may have different clinical implications according to age, and CCI was independently associated with other-cause mortality (OCM), but only in men < 65 years old.¹

The analysis conducted by Daskivich et al. also seemed contradictory to our data, as we previously mentioned.² They demonstrated that the risk for OCM increased with the number of comorbid conditions in all age groups, and the absolute effect of comorbidity on risk for OCM was less pronounced in men < 60 years than in older men. A close look at their results, however, suggested that the

comorbidity index cutoff value for predicting OCM varied according to age, and it could be lower in younger age groups. Although CCI is valuable for prediction of OCM after radical prostatectomy (RP) regardless of age, CCI score has a different weight according to age groups. Thus, we believe that the prognostic impact of CCI should not be uniformly applicable for all age groups.

REFERENCES

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