Response to the Letter by Scheitz et al
Regarding Article, “Intravenous Thrombolysis in Nonagenarians With Ischemic Stroke”

Response:
We thank Scheitz and colleagues for the valuable comments and the report on their own monocenter experience with intravenous thrombolysis (IVT) in nonagenarians (n=25), suggesting that IVT might be safer than was reported in our study.1 We stated in our manuscript that the observational study design and study size do not allow us to judge the safety and efficacy of IVT in nonagenarians.2 In our view, the same is also true for data reported by Scheitz et al, and the differences could be simply explained by selection bias and statistical chance in view of the rather few patients.1 In accordance with Scheitz et al, we discussed that rather than IVT alone, other factors such as older age, comorbid conditions, and stroke severity may be substantially related to higher mortality in nonagenarians.1,2 In addition, we pointed to similar mortality rates in untreated stroke patients with age ≥80 years.2 We were careful in our conclusion and did not suggest to withhold IVT in very old stroke patients but rather stated that careful selection of these patients is needed unless randomized controlled trials (such as IST-3) yield more evidence in this area.2,3

Disclosures
None.

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