Response to Letter by Zhang Regarding Article, “Diabetes and Poor Outcomes Within 6 Months After Acute Ischemic Stroke: The China National Stroke Registry”

Response:

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to Dr Zhang in regard to our recent article entitled “Diabetes and Poor Outcomes Within 6 Months After Acute Ischemic Stroke: The China National Stroke Registry (CNSR).”

We acknowledged that the patients diagnosed with diabetes mellitus (DM) in our study could have included a few patients with stress hyperglycemia according to the definition of DM adopted in this study (“a self-reported physician diagnosis of DM, use of hypoglycemic medications [for example, insulin or sulfonylureas] during hospitalization, or hypoglycemic medication use at discharge”). However, as Dr Zhang had mentioned in his letter, it was difficult to obtain the results of oral glucose tolerance tests from all the participating patients in such a multicenter, large-sample research as ours. In this study, we referred to several previous studies from Europe and adopt the definition of DM mentioned in our article.

To assess the interference of possible stress hyperglycemia on our results, we analyzed the patients diagnosed as DM in our study. We considered that patients with “a self-reported physician diagnosis of DM” or “hypoglycemic medication use at discharge” should be diagnosed as DM definitely. Patients with use of hypoglycemic medications during hospitalization accounted for 2014 cases in our study. Actually, further analysis showed that these patients were either previously diagnosed as DM (1489 of 2014 cases) or given hypoglycemic medication at discharge (1674 of 2014 cases). Therefore, we confirmed that the patients diagnosed with DM in our study had excluded those patients with stress hyperglycemia. Accordingly, the conclusion on the association between DM and outcomes of patients with ischemic stroke in our study was reliable and excluded the interference of stress hyperglycemia.

As was mentioned in Dr Zhang’s letter, stress hyperglycemia was associated with poor outcomes after stroke and the mechanisms of stress hyperglycemia remained unclear, which is the next obvious thing for us to study.

Disclosures

None.

Qian Jia, MD
Yilong Wang, MD
Yongjun Wang, MD
Department of Neurology
Beijing Tiantan Hospital
Capital Medical University
Beijing, China

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Qian Jia, Yilong Wang and Yongjun Wang

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