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Answer to “Temporal trends of functional outcomes in survivors of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest”, by Jiang J

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To the Editor

We would like to thank Jiang for his interest in our paper ¹. We agree with him that univariable analysis is not the perfect way to explore the risk factors associated with the outcome. The use of a multivariable analysis would be more appropriate to obtain a more robust predictive model and to exclude collinear variables in the final model ². His second comment refers to the use of temporal change of Glasgow Outcome Scale –Extended (GOS-E) as an outcome. Again, he suggested using multivariable regression model for identifying patients with potential improvement over time, in order to try to better allocate medical resources.

We can only agree with Jiang's comments and suggestions, since we had the same ideas when exploring our data. However, due to the low number of patients included in the study, we were unable to find a robust model with a good external validity. We therefore decided to keep a more conservative and descriptive approach. We acknowledge this is a limitation of our study. A larger study would be useful to develop robust and appropriate models to explore risk factors associated with outcome, and in particular to find patients with potential improvement over time, those latter being probably the best candidates for rehabilitation programs.

References

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2. Pineton de Chambrun M, Larcher R, Pène F, et al. In-Hospital Mortality-Associated Factors in Patients With Thrombotic Antiphospholipid Syndrome Requiring ICU Admission. *Chest* 2020;157(5):1158–1166.