Reply to "The mortality and blood transfusion"

Wen-Kuei Chang[a,b,c], Ying-Hsuan Tai[d,e], Shih-Pin Lin[a,b], Hsiang-Ling Wu[a,b], Min-Ya Chan[a,b,f], Kuang-Yi Chang[a,b,*]

[a]Department of Anesthesiology, Taipei Veterans General Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan, ROC; [b]School of Medicine, National Yang-Ming University, Taipei, Taiwan, ROC; [c]Taipei Municipal Gan-Dau Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan, ROC; [d]Department of Anesthesiology, Shuang Ho Hospital, Taipei Medical University, New Taipei City, Taiwan, ROC; [e]Department of Anesthesiology, School of Medicine, College of Medicine, Taipei Medical University, Taipei, Taiwan, ROC; [f]Department of Technology Application and Human Resource Development, National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei, Taiwan, ROC

We thank Chang et al for their thoughtful comments and constructive queries[1] on our study entitled "Perioperative blood transfusions are not associated with overall survival in elderly patients receiving surgery for fractured hips."[2] The Kaplan–Meier survival curves of the transfused and nontransfused groups were provided as requested, and log-rank test was used to compare the overall survival between these two groups (Figure). Patients receiving blood transfusion did have worse overall survival (p = 0.001) but the transfusion effect became nonsignificant after further adjustments as we demonstrated in the article. Besides, although the number of primary endpoint events was not small (121 among the 718 collected cases) in our study and we used several statistical methods to ensure the consistency and reliability of analytical results, large-scale studies which collect more potential confounders are strongly encouraged to further elucidate the relationship between blood transfusion and survival in elderly patients receiving surgical intervention for fractured hips.

REFERENCES

1. Chang WH, Lee NR, Wang PH. The mortality and blood transfusion. *J Chin Med Assoc* 2020: 83: 102.
2. Chang WK, Tai YH, Lin SP, Wu HL, Chan MY, Chang KY. Perioperative blood transfusions are not associated with overall survival in elderly patients receiving surgery for fractured hips. *J Chin Med Assoc* 2019;**82**:787–90.

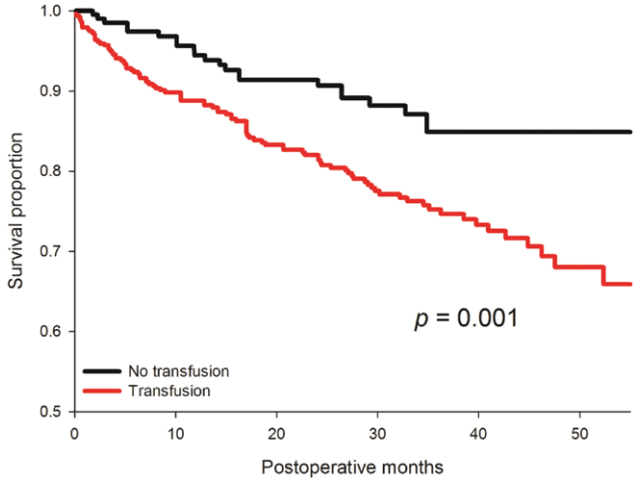

Fig. Kaplan–Meier survival curve for the transfusion and nontransfusion groups.

*Address correspondence. Dr. Kuang-Yi Chang, Department of Anesthesiology, Taipei Veterans General Hospital, 201, Section 2, Shi-Pai Road, Taipei 112, Taiwan, ROC. E-mail address: kychang@vghtpe.gov.tw (K.-Y. Chang).

Conflicts of interest: The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest related to the subject matter or materials discussed in this article.

Journal of Chinese Medical Association. (2020) 83: 103.

Received October 16, 2019; accepted October 16, 2019.

doi: 10.1097/JCMA.0000000000000217.