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Response to E-Letter by Dr. Ilahi

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To the editor:

We would like to thank Dr. Omer A. Ilahi for intently reading our recent manuscript (1) and posing a few questions of interest in his e-letter to the editor entitled, “Race Designations in Registries” on November 26, 2019. Dr. Ilahi made two queries for clarification: (A) “How was race/ethnicity determined?” and (B) “What is meant by the word ‘Asian’ in this investigation?”

Regarding the first query, race/ethnicity information was obtained from the Kaiser Permanente Geographically Enriched Member Sociodemographics (GEMS) datamart. (2) This datamart was developed to provide standardized reporting across all regions of the healthcare system and uses self-reported information collected in our integrated electronic health record, as well as US Census Bureau information, to make a determination of race/ethnicity. (3,4)

Regarding the second query, ‘Asian’ was not limited to only East Asian ancestry, but ancestry for the whole continent. There are still limitations in pooling very diverse groups into an ‘Asian’ bucket, similarly for ‘Black’, ‘White’, and ‘Hispanic’ and we recognize our work as only a steppingstone. Further study is imperative in better understanding health disparities that may exist even within these broad buckets, especially in the setting of current events. (5)

As Dr. Ilahi suggests, we are continuing our efforts to understand why any measured race or ethnic related differences occur in anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction revision and other outcomes. We appreciate his query and will continue to investigate and act on findings until we have diminished any measured differences in care and outcomes as it relates to race or ethnicity.

Sincerely,

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References

References:

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Conflict of Interest: None Declared