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Gender-associated outcomes in orthopedic surgery

Lee-Ping Chu
Visiting Staff
China Medical University hospital

Other Contributors:

Yung-Shuo Kao

To editor,
We read with great regard the recently published article (1). This study demonstrated the relationship between gender and the outcome following total hip arthroplasties. We have several concerns about this retrospective study.

First, the number of female surgeons is too low. From the statistical point of view, it's questionable to use such a low female surgeon number to conduct analysis. Most female physicians are young (table 2), which implies that the operations conducted in the female surgeon group were done in recent years. Post-operation care has improved in recent years, so the author needs to deal with this possible confounding factor. However, given that the number of female surgeons is too low, it is not possible to conduct this kind of analysis.

Second, for the complication analysis for THA, other confounding factors also need to be considered. For example, diabetes and metabolic syndrome are risk factors for adverse events following total hip arthroplasties (2, 3). The author should consider adding comorbidities as confounding factors. Otherwise, the analysis seems to be questionable.

Third, it's controversial to conduct this type of study to compare the performance of male and female surgeons. This kind of article may further deepen the opposition between both genders. We suggest that the future direction of this kind of study should focus on the characteristics of patients, but not the characteristics of the surgeon.

References

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