Dear Editor,

I read the article by Chen et al\(^1\) with great interest. The study compared the risk factor profiles, stroke subtypes, and outcomes between stroke patients younger and older than 65 years. The authors found that although younger patients were more likely to have a higher baseline stroke severity on the National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale, they had favorable outcomes 3 months after discharge, which is consistent with a previous study by Lin and Po\(^2\). The discrepancy in stroke severity at admission and at discharge in both of these studies is surprising and somewhat disturbing when compared with other studies\(^3,4\). Unlike the elderly patients, the younger patients had lower stroke severity on admission and were less likely to have catastrophic outcomes 3 months after an acute stroke. Given the potential for misunderstanding, I would greatly appreciate it if the authors could clarify the following sentence in the "Discussion" section of their article: "This poor outcome in the elderly patient group can be explained by the advancing age, high NIHSS score at the time of admission, and increased numbers of massive cerebral infarctions complicated with medical comorbidities in elderly patients." I look forward with interest to the authors’ reply and appreciate their consideration.

References


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\(*\) Conflicts of interest: I certify that all my affiliations with or financial involvement in, within the past 5 years and foreseeable future, any organization or entity with a financial interest in or financial conflict with the subject matter or materials discussed in the manuscript are completely disclosed (e.g., employment, consultancies, honoraria, stock ownership or options, expert testimony, grants or patents received or pending, royalties).

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