Prone Position Ventilation for Community-acquired Pneumonia

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Sir,

Chan et al recently published a study in the Journal of the Formosan Medical Association comparing the effect of continuous prone position ventilation versus supine ventilation in patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome caused by severe community-acquired pneumonia.1 The authors called their study “a prospective observational clinical study” in the abstract and methods section and stated that “Patients were assigned to either the continuous prone position ventilation (PRONE) or traditional supine ventilation (SUPINE) group according to the in-charge physician’s decision.” However, this trial was registered as a randomized controlled trial.2 Moreover, each of the three figure captions in the paper contains the phrase “before and after randomization”. Clarification of this aspect of the study methodology is necessary to interpret the authors’ findings in the context of other studies. Therefore, we would ask the authors to provide additional details regarding the method of patient allocation in this study.1 If patients were randomly allocated, then details of allocation concealment3 would also be desirable.

References


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