

Letters to the Editor: Mean values after treatment or mean difference?

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Dear Editors

In a systematic review and meta-analysis Published in the Urology (1) entitled “Low-Intensity Extracorporeal Shock Wave Therapy for Erectile Dysfunction: a Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis” by Libo and Guizhong in 2017 , the authors in methods section state that “weighted mean difference (MD) was used for continuous variables in their meta-analysis”. While, the authors used the endpoint scores as the mean difference in each group regardless of the baseline scores and one study(2) that baseline used as mean difference. Based on statistical literature in meta-analysis, the “mean difference” is change average from baseline to endpoint. So, to calculate the mean difference, we should use endpoint minus baseline mean score(3).

In our understanding, , it seems that the result of Libo’s meta-analysis (1) should revise for the mean difference as above mentioned

Sincerely

References

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3. Cooper H, Hedges LV, Valentine JC. *The handbook of research synthesis and meta-analysis*: Russell Sage Foundation; 2009.