Response to Letter Regarding Article, “Four-Variable Risk Model in Men and Women With Heart Failure”

We appreciated reading the letter to the editor by Petretta and Cuocolo regarding our article “Four-Variable Risk Model in Men and Women With Heart Failure.” In an answer to their query on the exponential equation we provided \( \text{Survival}(t) = e^{0.00221 e^{-0.00221 t}} \), this equation predicts survival free from all-cause mortality and not survival free from a combined end point of death, heart transplant, or ventricular assist device implant. Because we found no interaction between sexes in terms of our prediction model, we only developed a survival prediction equation for the total cohort. When comparing our risk model with the Seattle Heart Failure model, we did not use a lambda constant because it does not factor into calculating the C-index for each model, which was our method of comparison.

We do agree with Petretta and Cuocolo that there may be significant interoperator variation in assessment of New Year Heart Association; nonetheless, New Year Heart Association class was a powerful predictor in this and other cohorts. Finally, we endorse their suggestion for future investigation to validate and cross-validate this and other risk prediction models in heart failure, as well as the development and validation of dynamic risk prediction models that integrate changes in clinical parameters and biomarkers over time.

Disclosures

None.

Reference

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The online version of this article, along with updated information and services, is located on the World Wide Web at:

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