To the Editor,

As clinicians, we are interested in the study demonstrating the similar effect between stroke volume variation (SVV) and central venous pressure (CVP) on the renal protection during liver transplantation. What is disappointing in this study is that it could not find the value of SVV. We would like to point out that this failure might be due to the methods used for statistical analysis. The Risk, Injury, Failure, Loss of kidney function, and End-stage kidney disease (RIFLE) criteria classify severity of renal dysfunction into three stages based on changes in the serum creatinine level. Because this multilevel classification system includes the complete spectrum of acute renal dysfunction and there is progressive increase in mortality with worsening RIFLE class, the classifications of RIFLE criteria are ordinal variables rather than categorical variables. Therefore, the Chi-square test is not adequate for the statistical analyses of ordinal variables specified in Table 4 of the study by Wang and co-workers. The statistical problem might be the reason why the authors could not find the superiority of SVV over CVP in the study. Otherwise, the authors may pool the groups of risk, injury, and failure patients together into a single category for Chi-square test or demonstrate the significance of the clinical difference.

References


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