





LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Reply to: an evolving understanding of modifiable risk factors for post-transplant mortality

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Dear Editors,

We thanked Rinaldi *et al.* [1] who interested in our study entitled “Underweight and obesity increase the risk of mortality after lung transplantation: a systematic review and meta-analysis” [2] and gave an interesting thought and suggestion. Rinaldi *et al.* questioned why earlier studies from the same databases such as the work by Lederer *et al.* [3] and Allen *et al.* [4], which used the United Network for Organ Sharing database, were excluded from meta-analysis. The main reason was these two studies contained data from the same database that the study by Singer *et al.* [5] used, which had more recent data. Including those studies might increase

chance of duplication of data from the same transplant recipients and thus leading to bias toward that database.

Rinaldi *et al.* suggested that including studies by Lederer *et al.* and Allen *et al.* may provide significant findings. We performed analysis by including these studies in the analysis of post-transplant mortality. Being underweight increased risk of mortality, with a pooled RR of 1.20 (95% CI, 1.06–1.35). Being overweight and obese also increased mortality risk, with a pooled RR of 1.13 (95% CI, 1.04–1.24) and 1.48 (95% CI, 1.16–1.88), respectively.

Thus, by including additional two studies that published earlier and used the same databases, the results suggested that abnormal body mass index (underweight, overweight, and obesity) increases risk of death after lung transplantation.

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Conflicts of interest

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