

Letter to the Editor



Letter to the Editor: Commentary on The Efficacy of Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment by Neurotrauma Specialists (*Korean J Neurotrauma* 2024;20:8-16)

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Conflict of Interest

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Dear editor,

I found the recently-published study comparing the surgical outcomes of neurotrauma specialists and general neurosurgeons to be intriguing.⁶⁾ This paper's emphasis on the swift transition from the emergency room to the operating table and its impact on patient prognosis was particularly noteworthy. As discussed in our previous special issue, I am of the firm belief that trauma centers in South Korea, which are strategically located across various regions, play a pivotal role in the management of severe trauma patients, significantly reducing mortality rates and enhancing prognosis.⁵⁾

This study describes the lack of differences in surgical outcomes between general neurosurgeons and neurotrauma specialists. However, in this study, the severity of trauma was described using the Glasgow Coma Scale score at admission and at diagnosis. Trauma patients often present with polytrauma, that is, in which abdominal or extremity trauma are present, and such accompanying injuries can significantly affect patient prognosis.

The utility of a neurotrauma specialist, particularly in facilitating a multidisciplinary approach, is of considerable significance.³⁾ A comparative study that overlooks this aspect could potentially diminish the perceived importance of a neurotrauma specialist. The correlation between the volume of a trauma center and its outcomes has been well documented in several studies.^{1,2,4)}

While this study reports no significant difference in the prognosis between the two groups, I believe that this finding is not particularly meaningful in the context of comparing the surgical outcomes of previously experienced neurosurgeons. However, in future research, if the prognoses of patients with polytrauma and patients for whom neurointensive care is increasingly important could be compared in detail, then the relationship of the presence or absence of a neurotrauma specialist with patient prognosis may be further highlighted.

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