

## Letter to the Editor

### Cemented Hemiarthroplasty Confers Less Pain and Better Mobility than Uncemented Hemiarthroplasty

Xun-Zi Cai MD, PhD, Xian-Zhen Chen PhD,  
Shi-Gui Yan MD

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#### To the Editor:

We read with interest the article, "Systematic Review of result, there is a definite bias of selection that may lead to an appropriate conclusion. Unfortunately, no detailed reasons were provided to justify their search strategy. Second, we would like to offer some observations regarding their data extraction (see Supplementary website measurements of femoral neck fractures. Respecting the material) and pooled analysis. (1) The data referring to highly influential status of systematic review in the hierarchy of evidence, we wish to bring attention to three important issues.

First, seven trials, two randomized controlled trials [RCT] [15, 16], and five retrospective trials [6, 8, 14, 18, 19] could have been retrieved and included in the meta-analysis. In addition, one RCT [2] was retrieved but not included. The authors arbitrarily searched the literature after 1980

while missing two classic trials [5, 19] before 1980. As a result, there is a definite bias of selection that may lead to an appropriate conclusion. Unfortunately, no detailed reasons were provided to justify their search strategy. Second, we would like to offer some observations regarding their data extraction (see Supplementary website measurements of femoral neck fractures. Respecting the material) and pooled analysis. (1) The data referring to highly influential status of systematic review in the hierarchy of evidence, we wish to bring attention to three important issues. (2) It appears the authors neglected the cemented group with Hastings prosthesis in the article by Eiskjaer and Østgaard [5]. A similar instance is seen with Lausten et al. [2], which should be replaced by the earlier article by Lausten and Vedel [1]. (3) Gebhard et al. [8] reported six revisions in each group by 1 year. However, these data were mistakenly included in the column, "Complication" of their Supplementary Website Material. (4) The authors failed to explain why 15 cemented cases and 61 uncemented cases with thigh pain were not included in the subgroup of Lo et al. [3]. (5) In the report by Sonne-Holm et al. [7], 11 deaths that occurred in each group by 6 weeks were not listed in their Supplementary Website Material. Also, Sonne-Holm et al. noted only 30% of the patients with cemented prostheses (12 patients) reported pain compared with 60% of the patients with uncemented prostheses (21 patients) after 6 months. The result contradicts those of 23 cases versus 13 cases extracted by Ahn et al. [1]. (6) There were actually three revisions reported by Dorr et al. [8] [instead of four revisions. (7) The correct order of Fig. 2 in the meta-analysis [1] should be "(A) intermediate mortality," "(B) long-term mortality," "(C) perioperative mortality," "(D) complications," "(E) pain," and "(F) revision." (8) The mortality data within 1 month by Foster et al. [7] [should

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(Editor's note: A reply was requested from Ahn et al.; however, none was received.)

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X.-Z. Cai, S.-G. Yan (✉)

Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Second Affiliated Hospital, School of Medicine, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou 310009, People's Republic of China  
e-mail: Emilcai@hotmail.com

X.-Z. Chen

Biomedical Research Center & Department of Dermatology and Venereology, Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital, School of Medicine, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou 310016, People's Republic of China

Fig. 1 Forest plots of the pooled RR for pain in followup are shown. (Adapted and published with permission from Ahn J, Man LX, Park S, Sodl JF, Esterhai JL. Systematic review of cemented and uncemented hemiarthroplasty outcomes for femoral neck fractures *Clin Orthop Relat Res.* 2008;466:2513–2518.)

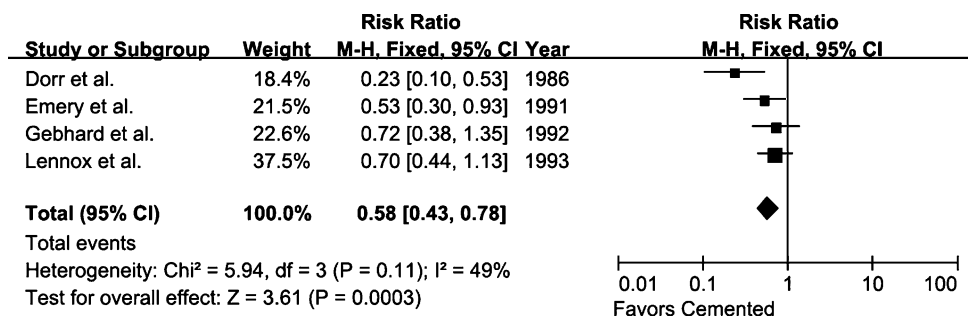
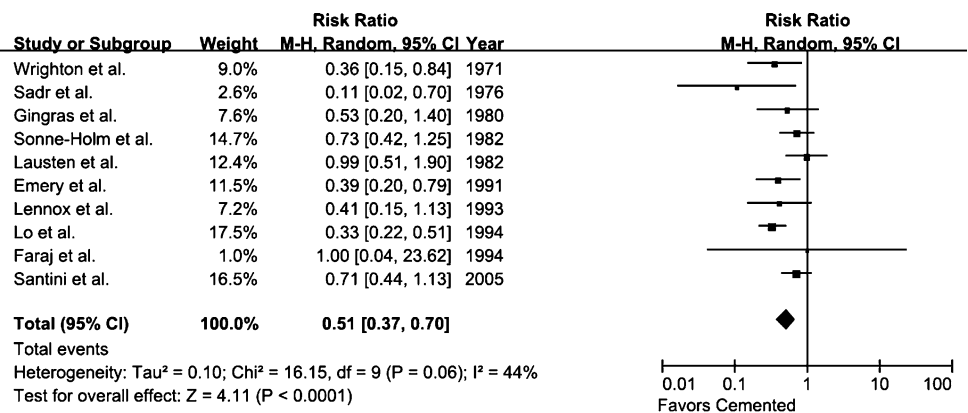


Fig. 2 Forest plots of the pooled RR for use of assistive devices in cemented and uncemented hemiarthroplasty outcomes for femoral followup are shown. (Adapted and published with permission from Ahn J, Man LX, Park S, Sodl JF, Esterhai JL. Systematic review of

Table 1. Results of subgroup meta-analysis for mortality

Mortality	Study	RR favoring cemented	95% CI	p Value	Q*	Model
< 1 month	Foster et al. <sup>[7]</sup>	1.07	0.73–1.57	0.73	0.10	Fixed
< 3 months	Eiskjaer and Østergaard <sup>[5]</sup>	1.24	0.81–1.88	0.32	0.79	Fixed
≥ 6 months	Khan et al. <sup>[10]</sup>	0.90	0.73–1.10	0.31	0.62	Fixed

\* The significance of Q test; RR= relative risk; CI= confidence interval.

have been included in the subanalysis for perioperative technique [10]. More evidence is required to confirm the mortality, not that for intermediate followup. The superiority of cemented hemiarthroplasty in long-term followup. Considering all the above points, we did a second meta-analysis with updated data. The results showed the risk of cemented hemiarthroplasty confers less pain, better ratios (RRs) of pain (Fig 1) and use of assistive devices mobility, and possibly lower long-term mortality compared (Fig. 2) were lower in the cemented cohort than in the uncemented cohort, which supported previous results [10]. Similar to the original meta-analysis, no difference was found in the RR of outcomes for mortality (Table 1), complications (RR, 0.85; 95% confidence interval [CI], 0.69–1.05; p= 0.13; fixed-effects model), and revision (RR, 0.61; 95% CI, 0.30–1.26; p= 0.18; random-effects model). For mortality, interestingly, the trend of favoring the uncemented group was inverted to that of favoring the cemented group as the followup extended (Table 1). The change in trend probably is attributable to more perioperative complications, higher stability, and better postoperative mobility associated with the cementing

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