Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

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Letter to the Editor

Response to Letter to the Editor: Comment on "Body mass index and Mini Nutritional Assessment-Short Form as predictors of in-geriatric hospital mortality in older adults with COVID-19" (by Café Balcı, MD, Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine Department of Internal Medicine Division of Geriatric Medicine)

Keywords:
COVID-19
Mortality
BMI
MNA-SF
Obesity
Malnutrition

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to respond to the Letter by MD Cafer BALCI on our article concerning the relationships between mortality and nutritional status and BMI in older patients hospitalized for COVID-19 [1].

Firstly, in the data set used in this analysis, detailed information about nutritional intake and nutritional therapy for each patient during the hospitalization was not available. In general, nutrition of all COVID-19 patients was assured using parenteral nutrition when food intake was limited or oral nutrition was not possible. The caloric norms were assured as far as possible according to clinical assessment. For patients with special needs, e.g. kidney disease, the provided food and nutritional support were individualized accordingly.

Secondly, we agree that delirium is an important mortality risk factor [2]. In our data, information on delirium was not available systemically for all patients, and we consider this as a limitation of the study.

Thus, we agree that there may be some residual confounding factors that we were unable to address in this analysis due to data availability. Issues that were not considered in this analysis, like the ones proposed by Cafer BALCI, warrant further research in other data sets.

Ethical statement

The study was approved by the Swedish Ethical Review Authority in Stockholm Dnr 2020–02146, 2020–03345 and 2021–00595.

Author contribution

All authors participated in writing and reviewing of the response.

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The funders had no role in study design, data collection and interpretation, or the decision to submit the work for publication.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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