

Reply to the Letter to the Editor: Interpretation of the Relationship Between CHA₂DS₂-VASc and Anxiety in Anticoagulated Patients

Editöre Mektup Yanıtı: Antikoagölan Tedavi Gören Hastalarda CHA₂DS₂-VASc ve Anksiyete Arasındaki İlişkinin Yorumlanması

To the Editor,

We would like to thank the authors¹ for their interest in our study² and for their constructive comments.

As noted in their correspondence, our correlation analyses demonstrated a positive association between CHA₂DS₂-VASc scores and the severity of anxiety and depressive symptoms. These analyses treated symptoms as continuous variables, reflecting a gradual increase in symptom severity.

In contrast, the multivariate logistic regression analysis modeled anxiety as a binary outcome variable (present/absent), addressing a different clinical question. In this model, the simultaneous inclusion of clinically overlapping variables—such as depression score, ejection fraction, and anticoagulant therapy—may have attenuated the independent effect of the composite risk index, CHA₂DS₂-VASc, or led to a reversal in the direction of its coefficient. This finding is consistent with the concepts of suppressor effects and overadjustment described in the literature.

Therefore, we would like to emphasize that the inverse association observed for the CHA₂DS₂-VASc score in the logistic model should not be interpreted as reflecting a true protective effect against anxiety. Our findings suggest that while the CHA₂DS₂-VASc score is associated with anxiety severity, it may not independently predict the presence of anxiety in multivariable, threshold-based models.

We believe that addressing this methodological issue will contribute to a more accurate interpretation of the relationship between cardiovascular risk scores and psychiatric symptoms.

References

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR REPLY EDİTÖRE MEKTUP YANITI

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