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European Association of Urology



## Letter to the Editor

**Re: Mark Douglas Tyson II, Tatsuki Koyama, Dan Lee, et al. Effect of Prostate Cancer Severity on Functional Outcomes After Localized Treatment: Comparative Effectiveness Analysis of Surgery and Radiation Study Results. Eur Urol 2018;74:26–33**

We read with great interest the article by Tyson et al. [1], who investigated the effects of prostate cancer severity on functional results between radical prostatectomy (RP) and external beam radiotherapy (EBRT). In this prospective, population-based observational study, they evaluated the results for 2117 volunteers with localized prostate cancer who underwent RP or EBRT. Patients were divided into three groups according to prostate cancer risk classification (D'Amico). In the low- and intermediate-risk group, EBRT was associated with higher sexual function scores than RP at 3 yr, but sexual function scores in the high-risk group were similar between RP and EBRT. There was no clinically significant correlation between treatment and cancer severity for incontinence, bowel, irritative voiding, and hormone domains.

On close reading of the report, we noticed that patients' oncologic data after treatment were not specified and it is not clear whether the groups had similar distributions in terms of prostate-specific antigen (PSA) recurrence. Vickers et al. [2] found that better rates of functional preservation were associated with lower biochemical recurrence rates. We think that PSA recurrence may have an effect on

functional outcomes in groups receiving RP and EBRT treatments, and lack of oncologic results is a deficiency in the study design. Answering these questions will help readers to better interpret the data.

*Conflicts of interest:* The authors have nothing to disclose.

## References

- [1] Tyson MD, Koyama T, Lee D, et al. Effect of prostate cancer severity on functional outcomes after localized treatment: comparative effectiveness analysis of surgery and radiation study results. *Eur Urol* 2018;74:26–33.
- [2] Vickers A, Savage C, Bianco F, et al. Cancer control and functional outcomes after radical prostatectomy as markers of surgical quality: analysis of heterogeneity between surgeons at a single cancer center. *Eur Urol* 2011;59:317–22.

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