



Response to the Letter to the Editor regarding the article by Taito et al. "Voice rehabilitation for laryngeal cancer after radiotherapy: a systematic review and meta-analysis"

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We appreciate the opportunity to respond to the letter by Karlsson et al. [1] on our systematic review and meta-analysis [2].

In their letter to the editors, Karlsson et al. focus only on the statistically significant outcomes in the pooled studies. However, this "cherry-picking" can mislead the interpretation of the efficacy of interventions [3]. The authors followed an a priori protocol to pool the difference between the intervention and control groups after the treatment. To estimate the efficacy of an intervention in a parallel randomized controlled trial, the difference between the final value of the intervention and control groups should be used [4]. Therefore, we believe that our method was more appropriate to obtain the correct efficacy of voice rehabilitation.

The confidence intervals of combined effect estimate ranged from benefit to harm with no large effect across the primary and secondary outcomes. In addition, our judgment of certainty of the evidence on the effect estimates was low due to serious limitations of primary studies by grading of recommendation assessment, development, and

evaluation (GRADE) system for rating the quality of the evidence approach. Therefore, we believe the conclusion in Taito et al. [2] was appropriate.

The authors acknowledge the reference error of the pooled study and will correct it. As shown in Table 1, Angadi has published the study in 2016 [5].

Reference

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