

## Letter to the Editor

Comment on: *External Validation of the PREMISE Score in the Athens Stroke Registry*

Dear Editors,

We read with great interest the article by Ntaios et al published recently in the *Journal of Stroke and Cerebrovascular Disease*.<sup>1</sup> This study externally validated our proposed predicting early mortality from ischemic stroke (PREMISE) score, derived from the nationwide Austrian Stroke Unit registry.<sup>2</sup> While we feel obliged to point out that the original PREMISE score publication<sup>2</sup> was incorrectly referenced<sup>3</sup> by Ntaios et al, it is reassuring that the authors confirmed prognostic accuracy (with excellent calibration and good discrimination) of the PREMISE score as an instrument for predicting early (within one week after admission) death after ischemic stroke in 2608 patients from the Athens Stroke Unit registry. By their work, they overcome the common problem that rather new risk scores are being developed and published before existing models have been externally validated in different populations and regions, which often limits the generalizability and practical use of scoring instruments.<sup>4</sup> Notwithstanding this fact, we agree with Ntaios et al that further external validation of the PREMISE score especially in non-European ischemic stroke populations would be desirable, which should ideally also include patients from less developed stroke systems. Such an endeavor should be feasible, as the PREMISE score benefits from an ease of use and the incorporation of clinical parameters that are broadly available in clinical routine. Finally, performance of the PREMISE score in stroke patients undergoing acute recanalization treatment (ie, intravenous thrombolysis and/or endovascular treatment) needs to be tested.

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## References

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