

Choosing cohort for epidemiologic studies

Epidemiyolojik çalışmalarda kohort seçimi

Dear Editor,

We just want to point out that whether the manuscript titles are actually reflecting the author's cohort selection methods in three articles published in October 2008 issue of Anatolian Journal of Cardiology. We notified that Ozsait et al (1) clearly explained their population selection methods to become valid in Turkish adults. However, we did not find similar explanation in Alioglu et al's study (2) entitled as "G protein beta3 subunit gene polymorphism in Turkish hypertensives". In this study the authors comprised their study population from 209 hypertensive patients and 82 healthy subjects living in a particular area. Therefore, we have a doubt that whether the results of this study can be extrapolated to Turkish hypertensive patients as claimed in the title. Furthermore, we thought that Tanyolac et al's study (3) had similar methodological flaw in cohort selection for their conclusions to be true in an overweight and obese Turkish female population. In conclusion, the selection of study populations should be planned in such a way that it may reflect universe of target patient population as we mentioned previously (4).

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Author reply

Dear Editor,

We thank authors for their letter in reference to our article entitled "G protein beta3 subunit gene polymorphism in Turkish hypertensives" that was recently published in *Anadolu Kardiyoloji Dergisi* (1). The authors have criticized that the method of the study does not reflect a study title. The aim of our study was to investigate relationship between essential hypertension and G protein beta3 subunit gene polymorphism. Unrelated hypertensive Caucasians of Turkish descent residing in the same geographic region that had a similar socio-economic level were included in our study. The expression "Turkish hypertensives" was used to indicate, that the study population selected from cases residing in Turkey. We accept that cases were selected from one region could not represent the all Turkish

hypertensives. However, genetic-based association studies published in the international journals frequently use similar expressions (French, Italian, Japanese etc.).

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Author reply

Dear Editor,

I have read the comments and concerns of our original article entitled "Correlation between educational status and cardiovascular risk factors in an overweight and obese Turkish female population." It was published in October 2008 *Anatolian Journal of Cardiology*. The concerns on the comments for this article mainly consisted of the study population description which does not represent whole hypertensive and overweight and obese Turkish female population. I had stated in both my title and in my study limitation that this study was not about representing the whole hypertensive and overweight and obese Turkish female population. This study was a retrospective hospital database study.

Sincerely,
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Assessment of aortic stiffness and ventricular functions in familial Mediterranean fever

Ailevi Akdeniz ateşinde aortik sertleşme parametrelerinin ve ventrikül fonksiyonlarının değerlendirilmesi

Dear Editor,

I have one question and some additional comments for 'Assessment of aortic stiffness and ventricular functions in familial Mediterranean fever', which was published in the August 2008 issue of your journal belonging to Sari I et al. (1).

- 1- The incidence for pericarditis/pericardial effusion was reported as 1.3-3.6 % during acute crisis of familial Mediterranean fever inside the manuscript, which this was reported in the literature previously with such a high value among young males as 23.3% (2). I am pointing this for the benefit of the journal readers.