

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Critical Care Medicine*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 29568

Manuscript Type: Original Article

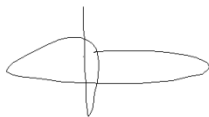
Retrospective Study

The authors sought to identify the risk factors for mortality in intensive care patients with postoperative peritonitis (POP). They included 201 patients from a prospective database that includes all patients hospitalized in a surgical intensive care unit for POP from September 2006 to August 2011.

The statistical methods used by the authors seem appropriate. The statistical plan included first a univariate analysis comparing the two groups (survivors and non-survivors) using t-test or Wilcoxon test for continuous variables and chi-square test or Fisher's exact test for categorical variables. Continuous variables were appropriately expressed by mean and standard deviation, and the number of observations was given.

Thereafter a multivariate analysis was performed using a logistic regression model in which the dependent variable was death. For the multivariate analysis, only variables found to be significant at $p < 0.2$ level in the univariate analysis were entered in the model.

In conclusion, the statistical analysis of this study highlights the negative role of the initial postoperative severity parameters and multiple reoperations in assessing the risk of mortality in patients with POP.



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