Re: "A New Standardized Format for Reporting Hearing Outcome in Clinical Trials"
Entong Wang
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Re: “A New Standardized Format for Reporting Hearing Outcome in Clinical Trials”

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No sponsorships or competing interests have been disclosed for this article.

I read with great interest the invited article written by Gurgel et al: “A New Standardized Format for Reporting Hearing Outcome in Clinical Trials.”1 The journals Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery, Otology & Neurotology, and Laryngoscope have adopted the new minimal reporting standard as a publication requirement.1,2 The new standard for reporting hearing outcome is very important to investigators to present their hearing data and to draw comparisons across studies in the future. However, I feel some descriptions in the article were not quite clear.

First, the label “>91” on the y-axis of Figure 1 is inadequate since it would mean some data could not be plotted on the scattergram; for example, when the rounded PTA values are 91. Thus the label “>91” should be represented as “≥91” or “>90,” and a similar change should be made for the description “from 0 to >91 dB” in the last line of the left column on page 804.

Second, the labels “≥50” on the x-axis or y-axis of Figure 2 (as well as Figure 3) are also inadequate. According to the description “For example, column or row ‘10’ includes the numbers 1-10, ‘20’ includes 11-20, etc.” in lines 4-5 of the left column on page 805, which means column or row “40” includes the numbers 31-40. Then how would the data about “41-49” be plotted on the figures? Thus the labels “≥50” should be represented as “>40” (rather than “≥40”) if the scattergram remains 11 columns × 11 rows. Alternatively, additional columns or rows could be added to Figure 2, forming a scattergram with 13 columns × 13 rows, and the labels from top to bottom (or from left to right) on x-axis or y-axis of the revised figure should be as follows: >50 (or ≥51), 50, 40, 30, 20, 10, No change, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, and >50 (or ≥51).

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References

Letter to the Editor Response—Entong Wang

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The authors are grateful to Dr Wang for his astute observations in pointing out typographical errors in the labeling of the scattergram tool used in the new standardized format for reporting hearing outcomes in clinical trials.1 A revised scattergram is being created and will be uploaded to the journal’s website when it is available.

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Reference