Response to: "Possible Errors in Hearing Recovery Results" from Kai-Min Fang
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In response to Dr Fang’s letter regarding our article titled “Efficacy of 3 Different Steroid Treatments for Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss: A Prospective, Randomized Trial,” we thank Dr Fang for thorough comments. We regret and admit our errors in the description about hearing gain results in Figure 4 despite several revisions of our article before publication. We checked our original data again and reanalyzed it with the correct one. As the average hearing gain in group I is corrected to 18.7 ± 19.1 dB, the total average hearing gain should be 17.6 ± 20.6. Despite the amendment, the differences in hearing gains among the 3 groups using the Kruskal-Wallis test did not show statistical significance (P > .05).

In our article, we assessed treatment outcome in aspects of hearing gain (dB) and recovery rate (%) according to “Clinical Practice Guideline: Sudden Hearing Loss” from the American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery in 2012. Therefore, the conclusion corresponds to our original article even after the correction of hearing gain result in group I. We do admit that there were some limitations in small sample size and study design as we previously mentioned in discussion.

We are also concerned about possible confusion in hearing gain results in Figure 4 to other readers, and thus we have added the revised Figure 4 and the related errors to this response. In the abstract, “The hearing gain was 12.8 ± 15.4 decibels (dB) in group I” has to be changed to “The hearing gain was 18.7 ± 19.1 decibels (dB) in group I.” In the Results section (p 124, paragraph 2, line 4), “12.8 ± 15.4 dB” has to be corrected to “18.7 ± 19.1 dB.” In the Discussion section (p 126, paragraph 2, line 6), “12.8 dB” has to be changed to “18.7 dB.”

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