LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Validation of a Method for Predicting Risk of Poor Outcome in Patients With Pulmonary Thromboembolism

To the Editor: Determining the risk of complications in patients with pulmonary thromboembolism is extremely important. Wicki et al1 described a simple method for predicting the risk of poor outcome in the first 3 months in such patients. In this study, we aimed to determine the validity of this method in our series of patients with pulmonary thromboembolism.

The method for predicting the risk of poor outcome in patients with pulmonary thromboembolism described by Wicki et al1 includes 6 variables, each with a score: cancer (2 points), systolic blood pressure below 100 mm Hg (2 points), prior deep vein thrombosis (1 point), deep vein thrombosis shown in a Doppler ultrasound examination of the veins in the leg (1 point), baseline PaO\textsubscript{2} below 60 mm Hg (1 point), and presence of heart failure (1 point). Poor outcome was defined as the appearance of thromboembolism described by Wicki et al1,2 of other complications in patients with pulmonary thromboembolism. Our series is small, however, and other studies—prospective if possible—with a larger sample should be performed to confirm this observation. The simplicity of this method means it would be easy to apply in clinical practice and would allow decision-making based on the risk of poor outcome.

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