

April 23, 2020

Very Misleading

John Yuill, MD | Hospitalist, Community Hospital, TN

Several media outlets have reported the 88% mortality rate without explaining that the many patients who remained hospitalized at the time the study ended are excluded, and that therefore it is too soon to determine final mortality rate.

See <https://twitter.com/DrJohnScott/status/1253284899752009728> for a cogent explanation of the bias in this study.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None Reported

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Mortality Among Patients Receiving Invasive Mechanical Ventilation: Know Your Denominator

Jason Maley, M.D. | Massachusetts General Hospital and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

In this article, Dr. Richardson and colleagues report: "Mortality for those requiring mechanical ventilation was 88.1%." This is based on 282 deaths at the time of censoring out of 320 total "discharged alive and dead" patients receiving invasive mechanical ventilation. However, a closer examination of table 5, row 1 reveals that 1151 total patients received invasive mechanical ventilation in the cohort over the study period. 831 of these patients (72%) remain alive in the hospital. This is not openly discussed in the article, aside from a brief allusion to the problem at the end of the limitations section. Unfortunately, the 88.1% ...

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