

Methodological deficiencies on the paper “Hypoalbuminemia as a mortality predictor”

Deficiencias metodológicas en el artículo “Hipoalbuminemia como predictor de mortalidad”

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The article “Hipoalbuminemia como predictor de mortalidad”¹ is a very good work, but it has a series of abnormalities from a methodological standpoint that I would like to discuss:

- To be considered a “predictive” work, a linear regression should have been performed as statistical analysis. In this statistical procedure, there is only a quantitative variable, but more than one dependent variable².
- It uses an *odds ratio* (OR) with a confidence interval of 95%, which handles a case and control study. Therefore, in the conclusions, it would show a positive association and not a mortality predictor. In the case of a cohort study, the impact measure should be the relative risk. The values obtained from the OR indicate a heterogeneous sample, and this sample is very small, which is a limitation, as mentioned in the discussion^{3,4}.
- In addition, it states that, for the categorical variables, an analysis was conducted with the chi-square test or Fisher's exact test, but the tables do not contain any of these variables⁵.
- Figure 1 shows a boxplots graph applied to means, and stating the p value. If it handled means, the statistics used would have to be non-parametric (Mann-Whitney's U). This does not appear in the methodology. When using means, the Student t test would be appropriate (parametric statistics)^{6,7}.

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Conflicts of interest

The author declares no conflicts of interest.

Ethical disclosures

Protection of people and animals. The authors declare that no experiments have been made on human beings or animals for this research.

Data confidentiality. The authors declare that they have followed the protocols of their work center regarding the publication of patient data.

Right to privacy and informed consent. The authors declare that no patient data appears in this article.

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