

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Statistics and the prostate gland

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Shim *et al.*<sup>1</sup> report in the January issue of *Spinal Cord* that the smaller prostate size in their entire spinal cord injury patient sample relative to controls reaches a probability of 0.07, a little short of the 0.05 level desired. If, however, only those with 'severe' injury—that is T10 or higher and ASIA Grade A, B or C—are compared, it is likely that a greater contrast with controls and a greater statistical difference will be found.<sup>2</sup> This comparison has physiological meaning as T10 is the lowest level of sympathetic afferents to the hypothalamus and the neuroendocrine ramifications.<sup>3</sup> It is possible that the smaller sample suggested has been obscured statistically by the broader sample used in the comparison.

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#### References

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