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### Reply to letter to the editor: Difficulties classifying myasthenia gravis in the pediatric surgical literature



Dear Editor,

We received Dr. Goldstein's Letter to the Editor and greatly appreciate his comments. As he highlights, the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America (MGFA) scoring system is an alternative means to quantitate disease severity. Importantly, he acknowledges that this scoring system has not been validated in children but does suggest work from his group has focused on providing some modifications to adult guidelines. We certainly agree that having a standard scoring system that all practitioners utilize would be optimal.

He questions our use of the traditional Osserman's and deFillippi's criteria to describe disease severity pre- and postoperatively, respectively, noting that these tools rely on a "mild," "moderate," and "severe" categorization. Unfortunately, so does the MGFA scoring system. Moreover, the objective of our study was to compare outcomes between open and thoracoscopic approaches, not to

attempt to validate a scoring system that has rarely been applied to children.

To be clear, we do not disagree that the MGFA classification is useful in pediatric myasthenia gravis; we disagree that the use of traditional validated criteria should be criticized.

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