Erratum: Overspinning a Black Hole with a Test Body [Phys. Rev. Lett. 103, 141101 (2009)]

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We assumed in Eq. (17) that the body is spherical and, therefore, its polar and equatorial radii are equal. There is no reason to make this assumption. If we relax it, then (17) should be replaced by $R_{\text{polar}} < d$, and (21) becomes $R_{\text{polar}} < \epsilon/m$. This eliminates the contradiction with (16), $R > 4\epsilon/m$, which applies to the equatorial radius. The conclusion is therefore changed: It is indeed possible, within the test body approximation, to overspin the black hole by lowering a spinning test body to near the horizon along the black hole spin axis, and dropping it in, provided that the body is somewhat oblate. Our oversight was brought to our attention by reading Ref. [1], in which the process of lowering a spinning test body into an extremal charged black hole was analyzed, allowing for an oblate body.

[1] F. de Felice and Y. Q. Yu, Classical Quantum Gravity **18**, 1235 (2001).

