Reply to comments regarding 'efficacy of analgesia using ilioinguinal-iliohypogastric (IIIH) nerve block, transversus abdominis plane (TAP) block and diclofenac after cesarean delivery under spinal anaesthesia: A non-randomised clinical trial'

We thank authors for reading our manuscript with interest.^[1,2] With respect to their observations, we would like to offer the following explanations.

We were aware while planning the study that clonidine can significantly increase the duration of analgesia with fascial blocks. This was a potential advantage because adding clonidine to the block neither entails any technical difficulties nor increases the risk of adverse events.[3] On the other hand, with systemic analgesics like diclofenac, the duration of analgesia cannot be increased, and there is a risk of gastrointestinal, renal, and platelet-related complications. Our study aimed to establish the superiority of fascial blocks over diclofenac, and it was hence justified to potentiate the block with clonidine. While in practice, it is advisable to give the block as early as possible to keep the patient pain-free throughout the postoperative period. For the comparative study, it was necessary that a baseline be established for comparing the duration of analgesia. The persistence of analgesia related to spinal anaesthesia can be variable on a case-to-case basis and may have interfered with interpreting the duration of analgesia with the block or systemic analgesic. The pain assessments were performed every hour for the first 12 hours, followed by 2 hours for the remaining duration.

ORCID:

Ranju Singh: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9058-2478 Kavita Yadav: https://orcid.org/0009-0004-6748-713X Pooja Singh: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0582-6587

Ranju Singh, Kavita Yadav, Pooja Singh

Department of Anaesthesia, Lady Hardinge Medical College and Smt Sucheta Kriplani and Kalawati Saran Children's Hospital, New Delhi, India

Address for correspondence: Dr. Ranju Singh, Department of Anaesthesia, Lady Hardinge Medical College and Smt Sucheta Kriplani and Kalawati Saran Children's Hospital,

New Delhi, India. E-mail: ranjusingh1503@gmail.com

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