

## **The use of intrathecal dexmedetomidine and magnesium**

Sir,

We read with interest the article titled “Comparative study of intrathecal dexmedetomidine with intrathecal magnesium sulphate used as adjuvant to bupivacaine.”<sup>[1]</sup> The authors conducted this prospective randomized trial using intrathecal dexmedetomidine. In India approval for its use has only be granted for the sedation in critically ill patients and more recently for sedation of nonintubated patients prior to and/or during surgical and other procedures. However, some studies evaluating the use of intrathecal dexmedetomidine have been published recently.

The authors used two drugs (intrathecal magnesium and dexmedetomidine) of different chemical class and mechanism of action. It is difficult to determine an equipotent dose of the two drugs. In the absence of equipotent doses, it will be difficult to comment which drug is better drug in terms of sensory/motor block or duration of analgesia. The type of pain in abdominal surgeries is different from that of lower limb

surgeries. It will be prudent to conduct the study in similar type of surgery to compare the efficacies of the drug. Alternatively, the authors could have compared the two surgical procedures in the two groups and commented on outcome variables.

The specific gravity of the drugs injected into the intrathecal space affects their spinal spread. As different agents were used, so it would be better if the authors can provide us the specific gravity of the drugs mixture in the three groups. In the absence of sample size calculation for a primary outcome variable, it is difficult to interpret the data for its significance and outcomes.

### Garg R, Gupta RC<sup>1</sup>

Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care, PGIMER and Dr. RML Hospital, New Delhi, <sup>1</sup>Anaesthesiology, Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Hospital, Jaipur, India

**Address for correspondence:** Dr. Rakesh Garg,  
35, DDA Flats, Jaidev Park, East Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi – 110 026,  
India. E-mail: drrgarg@hotmail.com

## Reference

1. Shukla D, Verma A, Agarwal A, Pandey HD, Tyagi C. Comparative study of intrathecal dexmedetomidine with intrathecal magnesium sulphate used as adjuvants to bupivacaine. *J Anaesthesiol Clin Pharmacol* 2011;27:495-9.

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