Herbert N. Chado, M.D.
Senior Medical Consultant
Neurotron, Inc.
Evergreen Medical Consultants
Evergreen, Colorado

References


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In Reply—We appreciate Dr. Chado’s comments and interest in our article. We have reanalyzed the data as suggested by Dr. Chado. The ratio of pre- and posttreatment current perception threshold values were not significantly different (table 1). There was a trend for the 250- and 5-Hz lumbar groups to have a greater change posttreatment (as would be predicted), but the variability was too great to demonstrate this difference statistically. It is possible that a larger sample size or a crossover study design would have decreased the variability and demonstrated the predicted differences (we have considered both factors in subsequent studies). Another factor may be that the neurometer is not sensitive enough to measure the mild sensory changes effected by intrathecal opioids.

Finally, we agree with Dr. Chado that there is good evidence that the neurometer selectively stimulates various nerve fibers. However, to our knowledge, definitive patch clamp experiments have yet to be performed.

Edward T. Riley, M.D.
Sheila E. Cohen, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.A.
Cathy L. Hamilton, M.D.
Department of Anesthesia
Stanford University School of Medicine
Stanford, California 94305
edriley@leland.stanford.edu

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Table 1. Ratio of Pretreatment and Posttreatment Current Perception Threshold Values

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Cervical</th>
<th>Lumbar</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,000 Hz</td>
<td>250 Hz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saline</td>
<td>1.1 ± 0.2</td>
<td>1.0 ± 0.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sufentanil</td>
<td>1.1 ± 0.3</td>
<td>1.3 ± 0.5</td>
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Valve System Performance

To the Editor—I read the laboratory report, Testing the Competency of the Hemostasis Valve in Introducer Catheters published in Anesthesiology 1998; 88(5):1404–6, with great concern and alarm.

Arrow® strives to manufacture our hemostasis valves to the highest standards of performance. However, we think that it is important that practitioners not misread the results of this testing to infer that any manufacturers’ valve system is infallible. Another concern is that many practitioners refer to an introducer system and a hemostasis valve in

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