REPLY

macological activity. As Dr. Ball wrote, large doses of vitamin C (total dose 3,000 mg) have been reported to reduce the incidence and severity of post-succinylcholine muscle pains in patients who have not received a defasciculating dose of a non-depolarizing muscle relaxant.¹ Vitamin C and other antioxidant vitamins in large doses have also been implicated in reducing muscle aches after strenuous exercise.²⁻⁴ These studies administered the antioxidant agent one to several days before the muscle insult.

Dr. Ball has correctly identified the rationale for adding Berocca C to the dextrose solution in order to create a colour-matched placebo. No patient received a total dose of vitamin C exceeding 2 mg in our study. This small amount of vitamin C has not been reported to alter the incidence or severity of post-succinylcholine muscle pains. Furthermore, all patients in this study received a defasciculating dose of d-tubocurarine. Consequently, the likelihood of this small amount of vitamin C affecting our study is remote.

Insights such as those expressed by Dr. Ball are welcomed and serve to insure that clinical studies remain subject to the critical appraisal of interested colleagues.

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