thesia, the sentence should read: "Dr. Bier administered the first spinal anesthetic in 1898".

While I accept the change in detail, I decline the "gender change" implied in Dr. Maltby's letter. Thus it should read: "Ganapathy stated in her/his editorial..."

Sugantha Ganapathy MD FRCPC
London, Ontario

REPLY:

We thank Dr. Maltby for his comments concerning our report "Pulmonary carbon dioxide embolism during laparoscopic cholecystectomy".¹ In many reports, the needle that established pneumoperitoneum for laparoscopic procedure was described as "Verres" needle.^{2,3} We checked on Medline and found that 37 papers are used the word "Verres" in their titles or abstracts. On the other hand, plenty of other papers mentioned the needle as "Veress".^{4,5} Both descriptions may be accepted.

Verres or Veress needle is widely used for insufflation of carbon dioxide to establish a pneumoperitoneum. However, Verres or Veress needle-related several accidents such as bile duct, hepatic, vascular, and gastrointestinal injuries have been reported.^{1,4} Therefore, new trocars have been developed to overcome the disadvantages of the Verres or Veress needle.⁵

Tadahiko Ishiyama MD
Kazuyuki Hanagata MD
Satoshi Kashimoto MD
Teruo Kumazawa MD
Yamanashi, Japan.

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