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**Response to Grunwell:
Dexamethasone pretreatment
for 24 h versus 6 h
for prevention of postextubation
airway obstruction in children**

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Dear Editor,

I am grateful to Dr. Grunwell [1] for pointing out typographical and statistical errors in the relative risk calculations in the index study [2]. On reviewing the original master chart and the original draft manuscript, I found that data from all 124 patients (including 66 in the 24hPD group) were included in the per-protocol analysis, and no patients were in fact

missed out. Sometime during the process of finalizing the paper, a typographical error was made replacing 66 with 61 along with its obviously wrong statistical consequence. Thus, 5 of 66 patients in the 24hPD group needed reintubation compared to 9 of 58 patients in the 6hPD group.

Further, I am thankful to Dr. Grunwell for pointing out systematic mistakes made while assessing relative risks. I request readers to interpret the results as follows:

1. 24hPD significantly reduced the incidence of PEA0 (24hPD, 43/66; 6hPD, 48/58; RR, 0.79; 95 % CI, 0.64–0.97; $p = 0.027$) with absolute risk reduction of 17 %.
2. Though 24hPD reduced the incidence of reintubation by half, it was statistically not significant (24hPD, 5/66; 6hPD, 9/58; RR, 0.49; 95 % CI, 0.17–1.37).
3. Among non-reintubated patients ($n = 110$), 24hPD reduced the

number of patients requiring adrenaline nebulization [24hPD, 39/61 (64 %); 6hPD, 41/49 (84 %); RR, 0.76; 95 % CI, 0.61–0.96; $p = 0.02$].

References

1. Grunwell J (2014) Comments on Baranwal et al: dexamethasone pretreatment for 24 h versus 6 h for prevention of postextubation airway obstruction in children. *Intensive Care*. doi:[10.1007/s00134-014-3549-4](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00134-014-3549-4)
2. Baranwal AK, Meena JP, Singhi SC, Muralidharan J (2014) Dexamethasone pretreatment for 24 h versus 6 h for prevention of postextubation airway obstruction in children: a randomized double-blind trial. *Intensive Care Med* 40:1285–1294. doi:[10.1007/s00134-014-3358-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00134-014-3358-9)

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