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**Safety and feasibility
of a strategy of early central
venous catheter insertion
in a deployed UK military Ebola
virus disease treatment unit:
response to comments
by Bordes et al.**

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Dear Editor,
On behalf of my co-authors, I thank
Dr. Bordes et al. for their correspon-
dence regarding our recently
published paper [1], in which they
highlight the difficulties associated
with the management of venous ac-
cess in severely ill patients with
Ebola virus disease-related en-
cephalopathy [2].

It was our practice to institute
central venous access early, once
gastrointestinal disease was present,
and the majority of our caseload ar-
rived early enough in their clinical
course that this was possible. How-
ever, a number of cases did present
with more advanced disease, so we
did need to address this specific issue.
As outlined, the vast majority of our
cases received small aliquots of in-
travenous benzodiazepine,
administered by senior operators ex-
perienced in procedural sedation and
anaesthesia. Our group encountered
no adverse events related to proce-
dural sedation within the “red zone”,
although all operators had prior ex-
perience of providing critical care on
austere military operations.

We found that careful, planned
sedation was adequate to safely fa-
cilitate central venous catheter
insertion. On occasions where an al-
ternative sedation agent was
necessary to facilitate general sup-
portive care, small aliquots of
haloperidol were used. Although en-
cephalopathy and agitation was not
viewed as a contraindication to

central venous access per se, gener-
ally it heralds a dismal prognosis in
the care setting we described.

References

1. Rees PSC, Lamb LE, Nicholson-Roberts TC, Ardley CN, Bailey MS, Hinsley DE, Fletcher TE, Dickson SJ (2015) Safety and feasibility of a strategy of early central venous catheter insertion in a deployed UK military Ebola virus disease treatment unit. *Intensive Care Med.* doi:[10.1007/s00134-015-3736-y](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00134-015-3736-y)
2. Bordes J, Gagnon N, Karkowsky L, Cournac JM, Rousseau C, Billhot M, de Greslan T, Moroge S, Cellarier G (2015) Comments on Rees et al.: safety and feasibility of a strategy of early central venous catheter insertion in a deployed UK military Ebola virus disease treatment unit. *Intensive Care Med.* doi:[10.1007/s00134-015-3803-4](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00134-015-3803-4)

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