Neural Monitoring in Thyroid Surgery: Is It Evidence Based? Is It Cost Effective?: Reply

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Dear Editor,

We appreciate the commentary of Dr. Anuwong and colleagues. We certainly agree that value and cost effectiveness considerations cannot always be seamlessly applied to emerging technologies. Our data indicate that intraoperative nerve monitoring (IONM) in thyroid surgery is clearly viewed by the majority of specialist surgeons as providing value. Nevertheless, surgeons must always be conscientious about new technologies in the operating room. We

should ensure that access to IONM is provided in a manner that does not result in unacceptably increased costs to patients or the health care system. Surgical and technologic advances may be associated with costs, which fellowship-trained thyroid surgeons judge acceptable in the added value they bring.

Sincerely,
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