Bupivacaine use with the Insuflow[®] device

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Thank you very much for your candid interest in our study. We agree with your conclusion that hot evaporation-based devices are unable to deliver local anesthetic. It is simple physics. However, we did not appreciate this at the outset of our study, and unfortunately the 2008 in vitro study you cite [1] was not yet available when we began our study in 2007.

We set out to answer a straightforward clinical question in a simple, cost-effective manner that we believed posed little or no risk to patients. Indeed, we believed at the outset that patients would receive the bupivacaine and benefit from improved postoperative pain control.

Interestingly, dissemination of the results from our work has produced some disagreement, and as mentioned in our article, one study has found that lidocaine administered with the Insuflow[®] device did reduce pain 1 h after laparoscopic surgery [2]. We agree with you that hot

evaporation-based devices such as Insuflow[®] are unable to transport local anesthetic and have proved the in vivo consequences, or lack thereof, clinically.

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References

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