In reply: Why remifentanyl?

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To the Editor:

We wish to thank Dr. Lema G for his comments on our article [1].

Based on the anti-inflammatory and sympathoinhibitory effects of remifentanyl, we considered that remifentanyl might have a renal protective effect against acute kidney injury (AKI) after cardiac surgery with cardiopulmonary bypass (CPB). Additionally, a recent article showed that remifentanyl had a renal protective effect against ischemic-reperfusion injury in rat experimental models [2]. However, our results were not able to reveal that. One possible reason is that the amount of remifentanyl administered in our cohort was not enough. Since the association between dose of remifentanyl and AKI has not been evaluated yet, further studies will be required.

As Dr. Lema G mentioned, most of the patients in our study had almost normal renal function. A retrospective study showed the possibility that remifentanyl could improve renal function of patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) temporarily after general surgery [3]. If the renoprotective

effect of remifentanyl had been investigated in patients with CKD, the results might have been different.

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Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have interest and nothing to disclose.

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