CORRESPONDENCE

Does length of intubation explain the failure of intracuff local anesthetic to reduce postoperative sore throat?

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To the Editor,

We read with interest the report by McLachlan *et al.*¹ showing neither lidocaine nor ropivacaine reduced the incidence of postoperative sore throat (POST). We are concerned that the low rate of POST in treated and control groups may have left the trial insufficiently powered to identify a treatment effect. Postoperative sore throat rate following general anesthesia has been reported as up to 62%,² twice that reported by McLachlan *et al.* Postoperative sore throat has been reported among younger patients, women, those with lung disease, and those undergoing longer surgeries.² McLachlan *et al.* did not mention the length of anesthesia in their study group. Is it possible that the incidence of POST in their study resulted from relatively short procedures in patients whose average age was in the mid-50s? We believe the final word on the influence of intracuff local anesthetics awaits trials in longer operations among patients at higher risk of POST.

Conflicts of interest None.

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References

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2. El-Boghdady K, Bailey CR, Wiles MD. Postoperative sore throat: a systematic review. *Anaesthesia* 2016; 71: 706-17.

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This letter is accompanied by a reply. Please see *Can J Anesth* 2020; this issue.

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