

Editor,

I read an article published in the July 2016 issue of Sri Lankan Journal of Anaesthesiology, which studied the effects of infusion of phenylephrine at various doses in elective caesarean section patients under spinal anaesthesia.¹ This article was informative.

I have some comments about the sentences written in the introduction section of that article.¹

The sentence written in the introduction section, ***“Till recently, ephedrine was considered the vasopressor of choice for management of hypotension induced by spinal anaesthesia”***.² does not convey the meaning properly because the reference cited was published in 1970.² How can it be “Till recently”?

I also feel that reference no.3 cited for another sentence in the introduction section, ***“Although a continuous infusion of prophylactic phenylephrine might be more effective in maintaining baseline systolic pressures, reports have expressed concerns over the large doses of phenylephrine required to maintain blood pressure resulting in reflex bradycardia”***³ is not specific for this sentence, because this sentence was written by Gupta S in an editorial³ based on some other studies which he had mentioned in the next sentences.

Doherty A et al.⁴ had concluded in their study that there were no clinical benefits of administering phenylephrine as either infusion or bolus method. But, the sentence in the introduction section, ***“The optimal dosing regimen for administration of phenylephrine infusion is undetermined and current practice includes both phenylephrine infusion and intermittent bolus administration”***.⁶ written by Doherty A et al [Reference no.4 here] actually reflect their opinion only, which was prevailing at that time (2012). The same sentence is not applicable for 2016.

Hence, I feel that references cited should be specific to the context, time etc. Otherwise, it will not only be meaningless, but misleading the readers as well.

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References

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