

CORRESPONDENCE



Dissociation between the brain target and respiratory capacity in critically ill patients. Authors' reply

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Dear Editor,

We thank Georgopoulos and Brochard for their letter on our review article [1]. They highlighted a few relevant points with which we agree.

Figure 1 in our review was introduced along the peer review process in response to a specific request from a reviewer. This figure was created as a new graph using equations for the metabolic hyperbola and numbers for the PaCO₂/ventilation correlations that are available in the literature [2] and also as open access content on the internet (see also the Online supplement). However, as the equations and numbers used to build our graphs are similar to those used for figure 4 in the review by Dr. Vaporidi et al. [3], the two figures ended up being very similar. We definitely should have acknowledged the resulting similarity in the legend by adding the relevant reference.

Along the same line, in the main text of our review, we presented the theory on the dissociation between brain and ventilation curves as already established knowledge, without attributing it to a specific source. We would like to acknowledge here that this theory is fully described in the review article by Vaporidi et al. [3], cited in our review as reference number 11.

We are well aware that integrating physiological research into clinical practice builds on the shoulders of experts who dedicated their efforts to describing complex mechanisms and to develop comprehensive theories that

unify knowledge and foster clinical reasoning. Our work would be impossible without their countless contributions to the field.

Electronic supplementary material

The online version of this article (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00134-020-05984-w>) contains supplementary material, which is available to authorized users.

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Compliance with ethical standards

Conflicts of interest

ES and JRB don't have any conflict of interests to disclose. TM reports personal fees from Dräger, Fisher and Paykel and Mindray, outside the submitted work. AP reports personal fees from Maquet, Novalung/Xenios, Baxter and Boehringer Ingelheim, outside the submitted work. DB reports grants from ALung technologies, personal fees from Baxter, personal fees from BREETHE, personal fees from Xenios, other from Hemovent, outside the submitted work.

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