

Response to Letter Regarding Levosimendan in a Rat Model of Severe Verapamil Poisoning

Dear Editor,

We greatly appreciate Dr. Gaudins's input into our research. When we mentioned that there were no formal studies on levosimendan in the setting of CCB poisoning, that was an appropriate statement at the time of submission of our article. The publications he mentions are either an abstract from a conference or published after our submission date. It is very reassuring that the findings in these studies match our findings of minimal beneficial effect of levosimendan in CCB poisoning. Dr. Gaudins discusses an additional mechanism for reduction of afterload, peripheral vascular potassium channel agonism, though he does not dispute the other theory. The last statement is disappointing coming from a fellow animal researcher. Most

animal studies do not reflect clinical practice as a rule and not the exception. Difficulties with starting multiple venous lines, arterial lines, and minimal funding did limit our study from a practical standpoint. Finally, we should have measured tail cuff blood pressures; however, our study was able to show a negative effect using time to death as an endpoint, which is quite significant.

Fermin Barrueto, Jr., MD

Chair, Upper Chesapeake Health Systems

Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine

University of Maryland School of Medicine

Baltimore, MD

Email: fbarr001@umaryland.edu