

## CORRESPONDENCE



# A fair commentary to “the pause”: author’s reply

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Dear Editor,

First, we want to thank David J. R. Morgan for his fair commentary [1]. In our letter, we described a girl’s death despite resuscitation manoeuvres [2]. We cannot explain why we decided to do “the pause”, but we did it, without knowing the web, which we discovered after this case, and without previously talking that day about it.

It just happened.

As we said in our letter, the physician who treated her from the very beginning was in the critical care unit with us. Thanks to his presence, and the dialogue with her parents, we were able to consider and understand their priorities and cultural beliefs. Also, thanks to the palliative experience of the intensivist on call, we were able to correctly approach these objectives [3].

“The pause” should never be forcibly performed. It must be discussed and commented as Morgan has done: clearly. In our paediatric critical care unit, we usually have debates. We do not use “the pause” in all cases. In children, in our opinion, this decision maybe has its main utility in non-expected deaths.

In essence, we explained the thoughts and meaning produced by “the pause” in this particular case. No more, no less. We appreciate the critical point of view. We do

not know if it was the right thing to do, but it was what we did. And we choose to explain it, which is the first step to allow the debate and be enriched by it.

### Compliance with ethical standards

### Conflicts of interest

The authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

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