

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letter regarding Salma et al. “Vital signs changes during different dental procedures: A prospective longitudinal crossover clinical trial”



To the Editor:

I read the article by Salma et al.¹ entitled “Vital signs changes during different dental procedures: a prospective longitudinal crossover clinical trial” published in the January 2019 issue of *OOOO* with both interest and disappointment. The article provides evidence for the well known practice that routine dental procedures combined with local anesthesia is safe for patients classified as ASA I (American Society of Anesthesiology physical status classification). This study demonstrated that the administration of up to 3.6 mL of 2% lidocaine with epinephrine (1:80,000) in the context of supragingival scaling, restorative treatment, or routine exodontia is associated with very minor changes in temperature, heart rate, systolic blood pressure, diastolic blood pressure, mean arterial pressure, heart rate, and oxygen saturation in healthy patients. The recordings at 3 time points (baseline, anesthesia, and intraoperative) add scientific rigor to the study.

What is disappointing is the lack of acknowledgment, in the introduction of the article, of key studies that previously examined cardiovascular responses induced by local anesthesia and dental treatment.²⁻⁶ The introduction also lacks a rationale, based on the current state of the field,⁷ and a hypothesis for the study. Finally, there is no lack of information on whether anxiety was measured, whether patients experienced discomfort during the procedure, whether anxiety or discomfort was associated with tachycardia, and whether the procedures were delivered to patients in the recumbent or upright position.^{8,9} Inclusion of these details¹⁰ could benefit the publication.

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Reply to Letter to the Editor regarding “Vital signs changes during different dental procedures: A prospective longitudinal crossover clinical trial”



To the Editor:

The authors would like to thank the journal for the opportunity to reply to the letter to the editor regarding the recently published article by Salma et al.¹ entitled “Vital signs changes during different dental procedures: a prospective longitudinal cross-over clinical trial.”