



## Letter to the Editor

### Thiopental versus Propofol on the outcome of the newborn after caesarean section: Can urgency grade affect the impact?



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Dear Editor,

Improving newborn outcome is one of the prime concerns for perioperative physicians. In this line, the article by Montandrou O et al. [1] published in your journal is read with great interest. The authors have done excellent and timely work and give us insight into the safe use of Propofol in place of Thiopentone in context to the newborn outcome. However, it is felt that we need to consider an important fact, which is pertinent to the study.

It is appreciated that the authors have given importance to the urgency of the CS as evident by the use of, i.e., DDI categorisation, which is an essential context to the outcome of the newborn. However, adherence to the DDI is not well feasible and affected by multiple factors [2]. Moreover, even the decision to perform CS is influenced by various factors [3]. Therefore, it is felt that more specific comparison in terms of urgency grade i.e. Lucas urgency grade [4], would have given us more valuable information, which is also endorsed by the NICE (NICE clinical guideline – CG123, published Nov 2011, updated Apr 2019) the RCOG and the RCA (RCOG – Good Practice No. 11, published Apr 2010) as continuum of risk. Furthermore, failure to meet the target DDI is not associated with poor neonatal outcome in terms of neonatal transfer to intensive care and Apgar score [5,6]. On the other hand, implementation of the urgency classification has been shown to improve patient management including DDI, and the rating was also able to stratify the acidotic newborn [7].

The other minor fact that needs attention is the ASA classification; any pregnant women are classified as ASA-II even

if there is no other abnormality (ASA House of delegate. ASA physical status classification system, published Oct 2014). However, this is unlikely to impact the result, statistical significance as well as outcome in the authors' study.

Therefore, if the authors provide us the comparison of the two groups in terms of the urgency grades, it will help the scientific community in better acceptance of the study result.

#### Disclosure of interest

The author declares that he has no competing interest.

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