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In reply:—Our paper does not state that 4–5 min elapsed between pretreatment and succinylcholine injection. The tonometer was placed on the eye before 3 min had elapsed so that there would be no time lag. The intraocular pressure was checked and succinylcholine administered intravenously 3 min after pretreatment.

Bowen,¹ using pancuronium for pretreatment before anesthetic induction, found an increase in intraocular pressure following succinylcholine. The time interval between pretreatment and succinylcholine administration is unknown.

We conducted a further study of ten patients using the same technique described in our controlled study except that pretreatment was with pancuronium, 0.14 mg/kg, iv, 3 min following succinylcholine, 1 mg/kg, iv. Eight of ten had increases in intraocular pressure of more than 6 torr, the mean

being 8.7 torr. We, therefore, conclude that pretreatment with small doses of *d*-tubocurarine, gallamine, or pancuronium 3 min prior to succinylcholine administration does not prevent an increase in intraocular pressure.

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REFERENCE

1. Bowen DJ, McGrand JC, Palmer RJ: Intraocular pressure after suxamethonium and endotracheal intubation in patients pretreated with pancuronium. *Br J Anaesth* 48: 1201–1205, 1976

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