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In reply:—We thank Drs. Gelman and Navar for their interesting comments. We agree that the extraction fraction of hippuran is related to blood concentration and cortical blood flow. However, in our study labeled hippuran was administered, allowing us to measure plasma concentration of less than 0.01 mg/dl¹ which is 500 times less than the saturation level of hippuran tubular extraction.² Concerning the influence of blood flow, although it has been demonstrated that an increase in renal blood flow can depress extraction of hippuran,³ with normal flow, hippuran is almost completely cleared.⁴ Therefore, we feel that in our study the significant increase in extraction fraction of hippuran strongly suggests a redistribution of flow toward the renal cortex, since in our patients hippuran plasma concentration was very low and renal blood flow never increased.

As stated in our discussion, we also feel that the effects of infrarenal aortic cross-clamping on renal hemodynamics in elderly patients with advanced arteriosclerosis cannot be compared with the effects in healthy animals, where published results are conflicting.^{5,6}

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