

when circulatory changes are irreversible the outcome would obviously be poor.

The authors do not indicate what percentage of their cases had associated meningitis. In severe resistant sepsis one presumes a significant number would have meningitis. Did ET affect this complication in anyway? What needs to be studied in our setting, is the effectiveness of ET in lowering endotoxin levels, if these can be quantified, and changes in WBC, complement, opsonin, and immunoglobulins following the procedure. Although observations by Dalvi *et al.*(1) seem encouraging, it is still "a time to wait" before we routinely embark on such an intervention. Recommendation of any therapeutic regime must follow completion of prospective, randomised, controlled clinical trials, particularly as alternative treatment modalities appear to offer promise.

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Reply

In reply to the comments by Merchant and Joshi we fully accept the fact, as explained in the text of our article, that not being a controlled study, it has its limitations. Therefore, the conclusions need further confirmation by a prospective, and randomized controlled study. Merchant and Joshi, have recommended a multipronged attack for neonatal sepsis with sclerema, which however, would escalate the cost of therapy and would also need a meticulous scientific evaluation. We feel that in a developing country like India, especially in public institutions like ours, financial constraints on both the institution and the patient may preclude the use of higher antibiotics. Under such circumstances, exchange transfusions (ET) could provide an affordable, practical and effective alternative for management of neonatal sepsis. Only 7/53 neonates in our study had pyogenic meningitis, 4 of whom died. Therefore, no comment could be made on the effect of ET on pyogenic meningitis in particular.

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Foreign Body Bronchus— Spontaneous Expulsion

Foreign bodies in the respiratory tract are especially common in children between one to three years of age(1). Rarely, these may be coughed out spontaneously(2,3).

A 18-month-old girl presented as un-