

suggests that this intervention could provide some real benefit to asthmatic children. This intervention becomes highly significant because relief will be provided not by some new drugs, but simply by avoiding the offending food allergens.

I had raised some issues regarding the practical problems associated with the intervention(2), but, Dr. Sarpotdar had raised some issues concerning the methodology of the study(1). Non-response to Dr. Sarpotdar's queries casts a big question mark over the study itself.

As the study has been published in a reputed peer reviewed indexed journal, it may result in some unscientific interventions by some doctors, who may read this study but may be unaware about the questions raised by us and no response given by the authors.

The Editorial Board should constitute an Experts Committee to review the study and give its recommendations regarding the methodology and results. The Editorial Board should then publish the findings of the Committee along with a response from the authors, who be offered another chance. Depending on the outcome of this exercise the journal should take appropriate action, including, if necessary, the notification of 'withdrawing' the publication of the study so that some wrong inferences are not drawn from such studies.

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## REFERENCES

1. Sarpotdar VG. Avoidance of Food Allergens in Childhood Asthma. *Indian Pediatr* 2005; 42: 963-964.
2. Paul Y. Avoidance of Food Allergens in Asthmatics. *Indian Pediatr* 2005; 42: 964.
3. Agardhedkar SR, Bapat HB, Bapat BN. Avoidance of Food Allergens in Childhood Asthma. *Indian Pediatr* 2005; 42: 362-366.

## Reply

Dr. Yash Paul has raised some pertinent questions regarding non-response of author to queries raised against a published manuscript. With regards to the present case, attempts were made to contact the authors, but came to know that the corresponding author had expired! And, hence the non-response.

Other suggestions were duly considered by the Editorial Board. Following comment are made:

Firstly, Editorial Board publishes only peer reviewed manuscripts and it will not be appropriate to re-review its own publications.

The Editorial Board has no control over authors lack of response, but by publishing the comments of researchers/readers, the journal is increasing the reader's awareness of the lacunae of the study.

There are clear guidelines for withdrawal of a published article. Design issues and non-response by authors are not amongst the criteria.

**Editorial Board**  
*Indian Pediatrics*