Anesthesiology
1997; 87:1015

CACI in Cardiac Surgery

To the Editor:—The use of target-controlled infusion of hypnotics and analgesics recently reported (Jain *et al.* ANESTHESIOLOGY 1996; 85:522–35) is further evidence of the use of pharmacokinetic model driven drug delivery or computer-assisted continuous infusion (CACI) of anesthetic drugs for use during cardiac surgery. Regrettably, the authors failed to acknowledge previous work in this area,[1–5] which makes their abstract claim "the use of target-controlled infusions of anesthetics for coronary artery graft surgery has not been studied in detail" most problematic. We refer the interested reader to the previously published material cited below.

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(Accepted for publication June 17, 1997.)

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In Reply:—The papers cited by Dr. Reves *et al.* are among important contributions to the field of intravenous anesthetic infusions. Because of limitations of space, we were able to cite only those recent papers that were most directly relevant to our data. The sentence "the use of target-controlled infusions of anesthetics for coronary artery bypass graft surgery has not been studied in detail" was written because no previous study had evaluated the cardiovascular responses (including electrocardiographic, echocardiographic, and hemodynamic changes) to target-controlled infusions in such detail in a large multicenter population. We reaffirm our indebtedness to previous work by Reves *et al.* and other investigators.

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(Accepted for publication June 17, 1997.)