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12/8/100286*Reply to the Editor:*

We wish to thank Miyamoto and Miyamoto for their thoughtful letter in response to our recent publication regarding neuropsychologic outcome after deep hypothermic circulatory arrest (DHCA). In their discussion of the controversy of pH-stat versus alpha-stat blood gas management, they raised several important issues and ideas for future investigation.

There are several potential explanations for the association between DHCA of more than 25 minutes' duration and late neuropsychologic dysfunction in our study. Although we can-

not rule out alpha-stat management, we believe that factors such as longer cerebral ischemia, more complex aortic repairs, and more advanced atheromatous disease in elderly patients were more likely causes. Additionally, the extrapolation of animal models of neuronal protection to the clinical scenario of adult aortic reconstruction is problematic.

We have no immediate plans to use pH-stat blood gas management in patients undergoing DHCA for aortic reconstruction. We firmly believe, however, that improved modalities of cerebral protection will arise eventually from experimental models and clinical investigation, including the important contributions of Miyamoto and Miyamoto, among others.

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