

Letters to the Editor

RBCCV 44205-941

Medline

Dr. Domingo Braile,

I appreciate your kind remarks. However, the committee members who evaluated and recommended inclusion of your journal did so on the basis of its scientific quality and importance to cardiovascular surgeons in Brazil and elsewhere. That is why your journal will be indexed in MEDLINE.

Sheldon Kotzin, Executive Editor, Medline – Bethesda, EUA

Congratulations to you and your journal for being indexed by the National Library of Medicine. That is really good news!

We have placed an announcement on the CTSNet home page about this, which will appear with deployment tomorrow. Also the announcement will appear in this Month's Newsletter, which will be out next week.

Thomas Ferguson, MD - Senior Editor/CTSNet

This is wonderful news. I know you are very proud, as you should be. I am passing this announcement along to Tom Ferguson for him to place an announcement on the CTSNet home page, in the Journals Section, and other places of the website he might suggest. I'm sure he will also put the announcement in our monthly newsletter.

Carol Blasbergh, Managing Editor - CTSNet

Es reconfortante recibir este tipo de noticias, te lo agradezco grandemente. La incorporación a la Base de Datos MEDLINE es merito del trabajo y calificación que han realizado con tanto esfuerzo. Merece una felicitación que debe hacerse extensiva a Ricardo Brandau por su labor.

El hecho de que "nuestras publicaciones" sean conocidas por sus meritos a todos los niveles me reconforta, es de justicia. Considero que mucha labor científica del sur es de relevancia pero no se le da la ubicación que merece en el plano internacional, la calificación de las publicaciones que se sigue realizando es inadecuada a mi criterio.

Adolfo Saadia - Buenos Aires/Argentina

Congratulations for the achievement!!

Alexandre Werneck - São José do Rio Preto/SP

If we have accomplished this victory, we know that it was due to your struggles and the credit is all yours. Thank you very much.

Alfredo Inácio Fiorelli - São Paulo/ SP

Dear Prof. Braile

I am writing to express my personal congratulations, as Editor-in-Chief of "Cardiovascular Surgery" (www.cirurgiacardiovascular.org), official organ of the Spanish Society for Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery (Sociedad Española de Cirugía Torácica-Cardiovascular – SECTCV) and in the behalf of the President, Editorial Board, and Members of SECTCV for the recent inclusion of the Brazilian Journal of Cardiovascular Surgery/Revista Brasileira de Cirurgia Cardiovascular to the highest level international database, Medline/PubMed.

Considering the difficulties to index a journal in such an important database, I believe it is an astonishing achievement for the Brazilian Journal, which I surely believe will contribute to further increase the diffusion of this Journal.

My warmest congratulations.

Respectfully yours,

Carlos-A. Mestres MD, PhD, FETCS - Editor-Jefe "Cirugía Cardiovascular"

Sociedad Española de Cirugía Torácica y Cardiovascular – Madri/Espanha

Congratulations!

The Brazilian Thoracic Surgery deserves it, indeed.

We have so much to thank to all people that somehow or other have generously aided with quality scientific papers and, in particular, my sincere gratefulness to Prof. Dr. Braile, who is an example of perseverance and hard work to all Brazilian Thoracic Surgeons. I hope this fact serves as an example to all of us, thus we can fight for better and fairly fees.

Cláudio Gelape - Belo Horizonte/MG

Congratulations for your efforts towards the recognition by the MEDLINE/PUBMED of the Brazilian Cardiovascular Surgery.

Cicero Brommelstroet Ramos-Florianópolis, SC

I would like to express my sincere congratulations to Dr. Braile, Walter, and Brandau for the great work achieved. Congratulations.

Eduardo Rocha - Belo Horizonte/ MG

As I have already mentioned to you, either our Journal would be accepted in the MEDLINE now or then this would be a "mission impossible". I pay my respects to you for your capacity and persistence, which has raised the Brazilian cardiovascular surgery to the same level of the best ones world-wide.

My congratulations for one more victory! We move forward with the same jolly determination that has ever characterized you.

Eduardo Saadi - Porto Alegre/RS

Congratulations for the reality of having our Journal indexed in Medline. Your Herculean work was based on method, persistence, and determination! We all are thankful to you for the success diligently achieved.

Ektor e Mario Vrandecic - Belo Horizonte/MG

I congratulate you and all the BJCVS staff who made possible the indexation of our journal in Medline/PubMed database. These are the results from your hard work and competence for which we are grateful.

Elias Kallas - Pouso Alegre/MG

Congratulations!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

What a huge accomplishment. You are fantastic!

A warm hug from a friend very satisfied with your achievement.

Emmanuel Burdman – São José do Rio Preto/SP

Congratulations for the achievement...

Only those who are in the same business can understand all the effort implied in following the winding road of the scientific edition, and therefore the satisfaction to share the benefits, fruits of this effort. On this very same afternoon, at our meeting, I will be communicating this very good news to Drs. Jorge Trainini and Miguel Ángel Lucas, and to all the editorial board.

We will keep fighting together to rise the daily level of scientific production of this so called our Latin-America.

Warm regards, reassuring our congratulations and happiness for the achievement.

Germán Delgado - Revista Argentina de Cirugía Cardiovascular - Buenos Aires/ Argentina

This news of our journal indexation in such an important database is, without questioning, most important event for the SBCCV in the last years. For this time all your added virtues and prestige were worth it. Congratulations for pursuing things with tenacity and ability. Our community must be in debt with you on this one.

Gilberto Barbosa - Porto Alegre/RS

Congratulations to you all, in particular to Prof. Dr. Domingo Braile, indefatigable and competent in this so important fight. By the way, we all knew he would make it come true.

Henrique Furtado - Palmas /TO

Congratulations and accept our greatest gratefulness.

Henrique Murad - Rio de Janeiro/ RJ

Congratulations!!! Happy to hear that!!

Izabela Pranga – Varsóvia/Poland

Congratulations one zillion times!!! What a wonderful announcement!!!!!!

João Alberto Roso – Pelotas/RS

Congratulations to the extremely effort aiming at to index our RBCCV/BJCVS to Medline database. Estamos fazendo a corrente para frente aqui no Rio de Janeiro pelo sucesso de vocês.

João de Deus e Brito - Rio de Janeiro/RJ

Congratulations for the wonderful conquest of Medline. Your effort and personal commitment to our Society, besides striking, is the BIGGEST example and legacy to the new generation of surgeons. I strongly wish to be worthy to follow your footsteps and always use your example as a model of humanity, determination, and straightness.

Luciano Albuquerque - Porto Alegre/RS

Great and warm congratulations!!! In fact, so many years of diligent work only would come to that.

I am sure our RBCCV/BJCVS Will be further known world-wide.

Márcio Argachof - GN1 Genesis Network - São João da Boa Vista/SP

I have read in the BSCVS site about the indexation of the RBCCV/BJCVS on the Medline! Congratulations! I was very, very happy indeed! After all, who else was more connected to this achievement, speaking to the MEDLINE international correspondents, travelling abroad, giving up of being ahead of your own company than yourself,

therefore who really deserves the applause is you!

We are all together in order to transform this event in just one more step, of other challenges to come, for the growth of the Brazilian scientific community in the world-wide literature and in these challenges to come, we also will be victorious! You can always reckon on me!

Marcos Aurélio Barboza Oliveira - São José do Rio Preto/SP

It was with joy and pride that I received the notice from the Sheldon. It is a great jump of quality. Congratulations.

Noedir Stolf - São Paulo/SP

I congratulate you for this great conquest. As you describe it, it is a victory of all the Brazilian Society of cardiovascular surgeons. However, without any doubt, you are the one to be blamed for this great victory: RBCCV/BJCVS AT MEDLINE.

Pablo Pomerantzeff - São Paulo/SP

Congratulations for this great victory. You are worthy of all the respect and consideration, because there are few men who have the faith and believe the following day to come.

From your admirer and friend.

Pedro Salerno – Recife/PE

I have heard from Elisa Maria that RBCCV/BJCVS was selected to be indexed on MEDLINE database. Congratulations to all the publishing staff! The effort made by the whole staff was finally recognized and rewarded.

I am copying this message to send it to the SciELO staff so this news comes to their ears.

As members of the Virtual Community of the Virtual Health Library (VHL/BVS) Scientific Publishers, you can spread the news to the Community. If you need assistance to do it so, just let us know. Otherwise, BIREME will appraise about the good news as soon as it receives a confirmation from other Latin American journals that took part on the NLM selection process.

Regina C. Figueiredo Castro - Coordenadora - Comunicação Científica em Saúde - BIREME/OPAS/OMS - São Paulo/ SP

Congratulations my friend and brother Marcolino. This crown of laurel is yours. Your persistence and devotion have taken the name of the RBCCV/BJCVS to the Medline. All the Brazilian Society of Cardiovascular Surgery members are in debt of gratitude with you and as friends we are very proud of you.

Congratulations!!!! From yours truly friend,

Reinaldo Vieira – Campinas/SP

Congratulations for the great victory!!!!

Ricardo Lima – Recife/ PE

All the credits must be addressed to Prof. Dr. Domingo Marcolino Braile. Dr. Braile is the heir at law of the protective mantle of the national cardiac surgery left by Prof. Zerbin. To Prof. Braile, I send my most sincere regards and respect, thanking him for what he has been done in benefit of the cardiovascular surgeons.

Ronaldo D. Fontes – São Paulo/SP

Although a work of art is not a creation of only one person, but of a team, as everything in life, we all know who the MAESTRO

of the orchestra was. Indeed, were it not for you, we would be still wishing and not BEING.

I feel proud, happy, and now with a responsibility of being part of this team. In April, 2006, you have named me to be part of this team. I thank you for this decision. I hope to continue to be deserving of this trust.

Please, forward my congratulations to all people who directly or indirectly worked to achieve this conquest, which I am sure was achieved with lots of efforts for the sake of all Brazilian cardiovascular surgeons and perhaps of all South America cardiovascular surgeons. The BJCVS is the first South America cardiovascular surgery journal indexed in this large region and, most importantly, written in Portuguese.

Rui Almeida – Cascavel/PR

Excellent news! Please, congratulate all the RBCCV publishing staff in our behalf. We will initiate the contacts with the Medline editorial staff to establish the regular procedure of sending the metadata to the Pubmed, as soon as possible.

Solange Santos - SciELO - São Paulo – SP

Your personal efforts were paid off. As a Publisher it was worth having the Brazilian Journal of Cardiovascular Surgery as part of the Index Medicus. Today, I opened the www.ctsnet.org Internet website where the announcement of this event was placed. I am deeply touched because I know the huge effort you have made, the work it was necessary for the acceptance of the Brazilian Journal in the same level of that of the North-American and European Journals and, most importantly, the quality of the studies presented in this journal by the Brazilian cardiothoracic surgeons.

I always had much pride of the contributions that have raised from our country, of which list is long, including the Jatene operation, Batista procedure, the Enio Buffolo's contributions, as much in off-pump coronary artery bypass surgery, but as also in aortic stent grafts, Ricardo Rasp suture, which changed the way to expose the vessels during an off-pump coronary artery bypass graft surgery, your scientific studies and your contribution for Brazil and Latin America ahead of the Braille Biomédica, and many other whose space is not sufficient to mention in this brief correspondence.

I hope all of our Brazilian colleagues, cardiothoracic surgeons, join in this opportunity to renew the will to continue in the leadership of cardiac surgery, what in such a way always brings on pride and joy to our class as in Brazil as abroad.

My sincere congratulations and a brotherly hug.

Tomas Salerno, M.D – Flórida/USA

Among many things you have achieved and contributed to Brazilian cardiac surgery, I have absolute certainty that this is the greatest one of your life. You have spread the thoughts and the work of the Brazilian cardiac surgeons' world-wide so that the entire world can be aware of that and know the seriousness of our work.

Congratulations are surely too little for you. I am once more very proud to work with you. This is the example we young cardiac surgeons have to admire.

Ulisses Croti - São José do Rio Preto/ SP

Agreement

Dear Colleagues,

We are messengers of good news. Our Cooperative is officially constituted and after strenuous negotiations with the State Government, we finally came to an agreement we considered reasonable to start negotiating.

Our contract will be made via Cooperativa dos Cirurgiões Cardiovasculares do

ES with philanthropic hospitals. The money will be transferred directly via credit assignment by the State Government.

The agreed values were R\$ 4.600,00 per thoracic surgery for the surgical team (excluding the anesthesiologist). Of these, R\$ 980,00 will come from the Single Unified Health System table and R\$ 3.620,00 will come from the State Government addition. The hospitals will be responsible for the Perfusionists and surgical technologist/surgical technician payment. Concurrently to this agreement, we achieve to equip and furnish these hospitals with an allowance release for equipment acquisition and construction of new facilities. The use of prostheses, orthoses, bio-glue, etc., will be released without bureaucracy.

Now, we will begin our negotiations with the provider organizations. We urge all the Brazilian States start negotiating in order to strength our actions.

In our specific case, the presence of our lawyer, Dr. Paulo Henrique Cunha, was critical in our negotiations. He is an experienced professional and has a wide experience on medical cooperatives (He is the lawyer of several medical cooperatives in our State). He is ethical, respectful, and high-technically well-trained to deal with such situations. He put his services to our disposal to whatever would be necessary. Contact him at cell phone (xx) (27) 8118-1520, or by e-mail: paulo.verdan@bol.com.br.

We are at your disposal to help in whatever it is necessary.

With our best compliments and high regards, we remain cordially yours,

Fabrcio Otávio Gaburro Teixeira, Vitória-ES

Historical reconciliation

In 1973, we were visiting the Texas Heart Institute along with Prof. Domingos Junqueira and Dr. Fued Abílio. On a Good Friday, Dr. Cooley performed 16 surgeries, among them: coronary artery bypass by grafting a section of saphenous vein, aortic aneurysm, Rastelli reoperation, and others. On the next Monday morning, from across the same building Dr. De Bakey was performing twice as much surgery with his team. We have always received support and encouragement from Prof. Domingos who kept saying – you all must attend Congresses and visit large Surgicenters. However, the reason of this little note is to make a brief report of the historical reconciliation between Dr. De Bakey and Dr. Cooley. On October 28, 2007, we received an e-mail from our fellow cardiologist, Dr. Claudia Telles, who have received an e-mail from Dr. Kenneth Mattox. Dr. Kenneth Mattox reported the historical reconciliation between Dr. Michael De Bakey and Dr. Denton Cooley. Dr. De Bakey is the former head of Cardiovascular Surgery at Baylor College, an institution which later became the Texas

Heart Institute. In 2005, Dr. De Bakey had an acute aortic dissection and underwent surgery. The decision to perform an operation in such an aged patient raised a series of debates [1]. Dr. Cooley is Founder President and Head of Cardiovascular Surgery of the Texas Heart Institute. As it is made known, these two great physicians have not been on professional and personal speaking terms since 1967. The reason of this opposition, we all know, however, there is no point on going into that matter now. Thus, on a visible political antagonism and diverging technical procedures, they kept on working separately in the same institution, the Texas Heart Institute.

It just happens that in-between them, there was a great friend, Dr. Kenneth Mattox, who was not comfortable with the situation has worked unremittingly through the reconciliation, which, at last, happened in October 27, 2007, in a Solemn Session at the Texas Heart Institute Auditorium. "Dr. Cooley apologized first and Dr. De Bakey embraced him, evoking peals of enthusiastic applause from the audience. A solemn homage was paid to Dr. De Bakey for his researches without which we would have not the artificial heart", Dr. Mattox reports. Michael Ellis De Bakey, born Michael Dabaghi, in September 7, 1908, at the age of 99 years, and Denton Cooley, born in August 22, 1920, 12 years before, were now friends again.

We have been informed that the reconciliation was made public through the Internet in November 7, 2007. The photo below shows the two brilliant surgeons together again.



Fig. 1 – Dr. Michael De Bakey and Dr. Denton Cooley

REFERENCE

1. Meier, MA. Paciente com dissecção aguda da aorta em choque, com 97 anos de idade. Operar ou não operar? *Rev Bras Cir Cardiovasc.* 2007; 22 (1): VI – VII.

João de Deus e Brito – Rio de Janeiro/RJ. Cardiovascular Surgeon. Full Professor at Faculdade de Medicina da UFRJ

Continuity of patient care after hospital discharge

We want to congratulate the authors of the article: "*The influence of physical activity practice in the outcomes of coronary artery bypass graft surgery*" (*Brazilian Journal of Cardiovascular Surgery* 2007; 22(3):297-302) for their work.

The instructions favoring healthy life habits is highly necessary in the patient discharge, but the patient hardly achieve this change alone. Measures like smoking cessation, safe and regular physical activity, feeding adequacy, and weight loss are some of the challenges [1].

It is in the postoperative period we become our patients aware of the importance of the continuity of medical care after the hospital discharge. Most of the patients undergoing coronary artery bypass graft surgery do not have major complications (86%) [2]; however, studies have shown that during the first year after surgery, depression and anxiety are frequent [3]. In a study carried out by Kristjánssdóttir et al. [4], pulmonary function remains altered in the first year after surgery via sternotomy. Follow-up favors the early identification of possible complications and the consciousness that despite the symptoms improvement, the delivery of health care should be long lasting.

The physical and psychological benefits of the cardiac rehabilitation programs are already well-structured and known, but in spite of this, the patient's engagement is still low due to the difficult compliance and accessibility [5].

Phase II rehabilitation programs for patients with heart diseases should be routinely performed, and not an exception, so that physical activity could be performed followed by a trained professional, which will result in postoperative quality advantages to these individuals. Despite these evidences, this fact seems to be yet underestimated. We expect the quoted publication further appreciate this theme.

REFERENCES

1. New Zealand Guidelines Group (NZGG). Best Practice Evidence-based Guideline- Cardiac rehabilitation. National Heart Foundation of New Zealand. Wellington, New Zealand. 2002: 3-153.
2. Ja'rvinen, O; Saarinen, T; Julkunen, J; Tarkka, M.R. Changes in health-related quality of life and functional capacity following coronary artery bypass graft surgery. *Europ J Cardio-thoracic Sur* 2003;24: 750–756.
3. Duits, E.A; Boeke, S; Taams, MA. et al. Prediction of quality of life after coronary bypass graft surgery: a review and evaluation of multiple, recent studies. *Psychosom Med* 1997;59: 257–68.
4. Kristjánssdóttir, A; Ragnarsdóttir, M; Hannesson, P. et al. Respiratory movements are altered three months and one year following cardiac surgery. *Scand Cardiovasc J* 2004; 38:98-103.
5. Kristjánssdóttir, A; Ragnarsdóttir, M; Einarsson, M.B. Comparison of the 6-Minute Walk Test and Symptom Limited Graded Exercise Test for Phase II Cardiac Rehabilitation of Older Adults. *J Ger Phys Ther* 2004; 27(2):65-68.

Verônica Baptista Frison - Physical Therapist, Master degree in Biosciences, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS). Full Professor of the Physical Therapy Course, Professora titular do curso de Fisioterapia da Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS). Tutor of Health Multiprofessional Internship and Residency Program (PREMUS).

Cristiane Mecca Giacomazzi - Physical Therapist, PREMUS cardiopulmonary rehabilitation internship.

Raquel Jeanty de Seixas -cardiopulmonary rehabilitation internship.

Levosimendana

Dear Drs. Walter Gomes and Domingo Braile,

To answer the Boletim Científico Número 5 – 2007, issued by the Brazilian Society of Cardiovascular Surgery (BSCVS) – Abbott Laboratórios do Brasil states that:

- Levosimendana/Levosimendan (Simdax[®]) is commercialized in several European, Asiatic, and Latin-American countries, including Brazil.
- Abbott is not withdrawing levosimendana/levosimendan from the North-American market, once this drug has never been commercialized in the.
- Abbott has proved to all the regulatory agencies throughout the countries in which this drug is registered that levosimendana/levosimendan is an efficient treatment for patients with decompensated heart failure.
- The SURVIVE study, a double-dummy, double-blind, prospective, randomized, European multicenter trial, was the first large study to test the survival using an inotropic agent as a main outcome measures. It was published by the Journal of the American Medical Association – JAMA – on May 2, 2007.
- Although it has not shown an increase of survival after 6 months, some other outcomes achieved, demonstrate benefits with the use of levosimendana/levosimendan, such as a significant decrease in BNP levels on day 1 after drug administration and an increase in survival at 31 days in patients with chronic heart failure.

• The SURVIVE outcomes should be analyzed in the context of other studies with levosimendana/levosimendan which demonstrated the drug benefit for patients, such as the LIDO Trial (published by the Lancet – a double-blind, randomized trial – also showing the use of dobutamina/dobutamin targeted to assess the hemodynamic benefits in patients with low cardiac output, showing the superiority of levosimendana/levosimendan) and the e o RUSSLAN (published by the European Heart Journal – demonstrated the safety in using levosimendana/levosimendan in patients with heart failure after acute myocardial infarction). Besides these two large studies, several other small studies have been published weekly in journal of relative impact addressing several scenarios for the use of levosimendana/levosimendan, including patients with low cardiac output undergoing thoracic surgery.

• In Brazil, the levosimendana/levosimendan was studied in a large multicenter study (BELIEF Trail) carried out from 2001 to 2002 by the Group of Heart Failure Studies [Grupo de Estudos de Insuficiência Cardíaca (GEIC)]. The study primary outcome measure was to evaluate the therapy success with levosimendana/levosimendan, considered as patient discharge without salvage therapy and without side effect. This objective was achieved in 76% of the study patients. This study is under evaluation of the Brazilian Archives of Cardiology to be published).

• The levosimendana/levosimendan is a drug with the Best degree of recommendation by the Decompensated Heart Failure European and Decompensated Heart Failure Latin-American Guidelines, being classified as IIaB in both Guidelines.

We, therefore, request the respected Brazilian Society of Cardiovascular Surgery (Sociedade Brasileira de Cirurgia Cardiovascular) to estimate the possibility to transmit to the associates the explanation available herein.

We take the chance to highlight the esteem and respect the Abbott Laboratórios do Brasil has by the BSCVS, and we are at your disposal for further information.

**Cordially,
Antonio C. José
Medical Director
Abbott Laboratório do Brasil**