

Letter

A Response to a Letter of Vivat and Twycross's information



Dear editor,

We would like to briefly respond to some comments of Vivat and Twycross regarding our paper “Changing Practices in the Use of Continuous Sedation at the End of Life: A Systematic Review of the Literature”.¹

An important aim of our study was to explore developments in the use of continuous deep sedation between 2000 and 2020. Whereas a previous article of Vivat et al. did not report frequencies and did not provide a definition of sedation, this study was not included in our review.²

We included a study of Seale et al., the results of which were reported in two papers, with different frequencies of CDS due to a difference in weighing. Whereas Seale suggests that the percentage of 18.7% is likely to be an overestimation, we decided to include the percentage of 16.5% in our analysis.³

Lastly, Vivat and Twycross wrongly assume that in the nationwide studies that were included in our review physicians reported on their last “problematic” death. In most studies, however, frequency estimates were based on randomly selected samples of deaths; in two studies physicians reported on their most recently deceased patient and in one study frequency estimates were based on frequencies reported by respondents.

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