comments about the possible reduction in expectoration of intrabronchial plugs and mucus during ipratropium bromide therapy.

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Evaluation of the efficacy of flecainide acetate in the treatment of ventricular premature contractions

Sir,

With reference to the paper by Muhiddin *et al.* (1985), we should like to draw your attention to the paragraph in the discussion headed 'Efficacy against supraventricular arrhythmias'.

The paper states that flecainide was not effective in reducing the frequency of SVT; however it should be noted that the method of analysis of 24 hour EEG recordings used is incapable of differentiating between pathological arrhythmias and normal physiological responses such as sinus tachycardia.

An unusual definition of ventricular tachycardia (VT) was used in the paper, namely two or more consecutive aberrant beats. The more widely accepted definition is three or more consecutive aberrant beats. When that definition is used, the total number of episodes of VT salvos during flecainide and placebo periods is 18 and 36 respectively – a statistically significant difference ($P < 0.02$).

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- MUHIDDIN, K.A., TURNER, P., HELLESTRAND, K. & CAMM, A.J. (1985). Evaluation of the efficacy of flecainide acetate in the treatment of ventricular premature contractions. *Postgraduate Medical Journal*, **61**, 489.