Dear Editor,

Sugammadex is a modified gamma cyclodextrin. Cyclodextrins are water soluble cyclic oligosaccharides with a lipophilic core. Sugammadex has quickly found a place in clinical use. Since its introduction in 2010, it has rapidly become an integral part of the armamentarium available to the anesthesiologist. It is a neutral, non-ionic, hydrophobic, steroidal and non-steroidal drugs. These drugs include: adrenalin (1 mg.mL⁻¹), furosemide (10 mg.mL⁻¹), gentamicin (40 mg.mL⁻¹), glyceryl trinitrate (5 mg.mL⁻¹), heparin (1,000 IU.mL⁻¹), hydrocortisone (250 mg.mL⁻¹), crystallized insulin (100 IU.mL⁻¹), Calcium (Calcium Gluconate Monohydrate 225 mg.mL⁻¹ + Calcium levulinate dihydrate 572 mg.mL⁻¹), ketamine (50 mg.mL⁻¹), levobupivacaine (7.5 mg.mL⁻¹), magnesium sulphate (1.2 mEq.mL⁻¹), metamizol sodium (0.5 g.mL⁻¹), methylergobasin maleate (0.2 mg.mL⁻¹), metoclopramide (5 mg.mL⁻¹), metoprolol (1 mg.mL⁻¹), morphine (0.01 g.mL⁻¹), midazolam (5 mg.mL⁻¹), n-acetylcysteine (100 mg.mL⁻¹), naloxone (0.4 mg.mL⁻¹), neostigmine (0.5 mg.mL⁻¹), nitropusride (12 mg.mL⁻¹), norepinephrine (1 mg.mL⁻¹), oxycrin (5 IU.mL⁻¹), paracetamol (10 mg.mL⁻¹), thiopental sodium (25 mg.mL⁻¹), pethidine (50 mg.mL⁻¹), phenytoin (50 mg.mL⁻¹), piracetam (1 g.mL⁻¹), prednisolone (25 mg), piroxicaine (20 mg.mL⁻¹), propafenone (3.5 mg.mL⁻¹), protamine hydrochloride (1,000 IU.mL⁻¹), potassium (1 mEq.mL⁻¹), remifentanil (5 mg.mL⁻¹), cefuroxime axetil (125 mg.mL⁻¹), sulphactam-ampicillin (200 mg.mL⁻¹), succinylcholine (20 mg.mL⁻¹), tenoxicam (10 mg.mL⁻¹), theophylline (24 mg.mL⁻¹), tremadol (50 mg.mL⁻¹), and vitamin K (10 mg.mL⁻¹). A scale of 0-4 was used to evaluate the test, with 0 being no precipitation and 4+ being strong precipitation.

With this aim, simply 0.1 mL containing 100 mg.mL⁻¹ sugammadex was mixed on a glass slide with the same volume of a drug and the presence or absence of precipitation was determined under the microscope. The drugs investigated are all commonly used in clinical anesthesia practice. They include: adrenalin (1 mg.mL⁻¹), atropine (1 mg.mL⁻¹), amiodarone (50 mg.mL⁻¹), aminophylline (24 mg.mL⁻¹), orindazole (500 mg.3 mL⁻¹), bupivacaine (5 mg.mL⁻¹), cefazolin sodium (250 mg.mL⁻¹), dexametadonime (100 µg.mL⁻¹), dobutamine (12.5 mg.mL⁻¹), dopamine (8 mg.mL⁻¹), ephedrine (0.05 g.mL⁻¹), esmolol (10 mg.mL⁻¹), esomeprazole (40 mg.mL⁻¹), etomidate (2 mg.mL⁻¹), fentanyl (50 µg.mL⁻¹), flumazenil (0.1 mg.mL⁻¹), furosemide (10 mg.mL⁻¹), gentamicin (40 mg.mL⁻¹), glyceryl trinitrate (5 mg.mL⁻¹), heparin (1,000 IU.mL⁻¹), hydrocortisone (250 mg.mL⁻¹), crystallized insulin (100 IU.mL⁻¹), Calcium (Calcium Gluconate Monohydrate 225 mg.mL⁻¹ + Calcium levulinate dihydrate 572 mg.mL⁻¹), ketamine (50 mg.mL⁻¹), levobupivacaine (7.5 mg.mL⁻¹), magnesium sulphate (1.2 mEq.mL⁻¹), metamizol sodium (0.5 g.mL⁻¹), methylergobasin maleate (0.2 mg.mL⁻¹), metoclopramide (5 mg.mL⁻¹), metoprolol (1 mg.mL⁻¹), morphine (0.01 g.mL⁻¹), midazolam (5 mg.mL⁻¹), n-acetylcysteine (100 mg.mL⁻¹), naloxone (0.4 mg.mL⁻¹), neostigmine (0.5 mg.mL⁻¹), nitropusride (12 mg.mL⁻¹), norepinephrine (1 mg.mL⁻¹), oxycrin (5 IU.mL⁻¹), paracetamol (10 mg.mL⁻¹), thiopental sodium (25 mg.mL⁻¹), pethidine (50 mg.mL⁻¹), phenytoin (50 mg.mL⁻¹), piracetam (1 g.mL⁻¹), prednisolone (25 mg), piroxicaine (20 mg.mL⁻¹), propafenone (3.5 mg.mL⁻¹), protamine hydrochloride (1,000 IU.mL⁻¹), potassium (1 mEq.mL⁻¹), remifentanil (5 mg.mL⁻¹), cefuroxime axetil (125 mg.mL⁻¹), sulphactam-ampicillin (200 mg.mL⁻¹), succinylcholine (20 mg.mL⁻¹), tenoxicam (10 mg.mL⁻¹), theophylline (24 mg.mL⁻¹), tremadol (50 mg.mL⁻¹), and vitamin K (10 mg.mL⁻¹). A scale of 0-4 was used to evaluate the test, with 0 being no precipitation and 4+ being strong precipitation.

Within seconds, sugammadex (100 mg.mL⁻¹) scored 4+ precipitation with amiodarone (50 mg.mL⁻¹), dobutamine (12.5 mg.mL⁻¹) and protamine hydrochloride (1,000 IU.mL⁻¹).

There are reports on the incompatibility and precipitation of anesthetic drugs. Thiopental, with basic pH, reacts with acidic muscle relaxants such as suxamethonium, mivacurium, vecuronium and rocuronium, causing precipitation. Similarly, thiopental causes precipitation with local anesthetics due to pH differences.

Previously experimental studies have shown that thiopental reacting with various drugs may form thiopental acid crystals due to precipitation, which may cause pulmonary embolism. Sugammadex has a pH of 7.3 and the precipitation reaction with protamine may be related to the molecules’ ionic weight.
Our study shows that sugammadex reacts with amiodarone, dobutamine and protamine under in-vitro conditions, causing precipitation. We emphasize that sugammadex should not be given intravenously simultaneously with these drugs. Future studies will characterize their precipitation reaction, which seems to be only the tip of the iceberg. In addition, future studies should be focused on investigating sugammadex compatibility with other drugs by using Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry device. We believe the effects of this precipitation on the drugs’ efficacy and circulation warrants further research.

References