

## Press release

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# Dutch research group receives Dräger Prize in Intensive Care Medicine

Lübeck – The “ESA Dräger Prize in Intensive Care Medicine” 2011 went to the LACTATE Study group around Professor Jan Bakker, Chair of the Department of Intensive Care Adults, Erasmus MC University Medical Center, Rotterdam, Netherlands, for the study entitled “Early Lactate-Guided Therapy in Intensive Care Unit Patients”.<sup>1</sup> The European Society of Anaesthesiology (ESA) awarded the 10,000 Euro prize money at the congress Euroanaesthesia 2011 in Amsterdam, Netherlands, for the fifth time. It was donated by Dräger, an international leader in the fields of medical and safety technology.

The LACTATE Study group tested whether patients with elevated lactate levels ( $\geq 3.0$  mEq/L) on intensive care unit (ICU) admission would benefit from serial lactate monitoring when compared with patients in whom serial lactate monitoring was not available. “We found that in patients with hyperlactatemia on ICU admission, lactate-guided therapy significantly reduced hospital mortality when adjusting for predefined risk factors”, explains Bakker. The study therefore suggests that initial treatment aimed at reducing lactate levels has clinical benefit. In addition, the results shows that reducing lactate levels significantly reduced organ failure, duration of mechanical ventilation and ICU length of stay.

During the opening ceremony, Professor Benedikt Pannen, Chairperson of the ESA Scientific Committee, together with Eckhard Remich, Head of Marketing of the Strategic Business Field Anesthesiology at Dräger, presented the award to Dr. Tim Jansen, first author of the manuscript, representing the study group. “We selected this high-quality scientific study as the results offer new therapeutic approaches for the treatment of ICU patients”, stated Pannen.

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<sup>1</sup> Tim C. Jansen, Jasper van Bommel, F. Jeanette Schoonderbeek, Steven J. Sleeswijk Visser, Johan M. van der Klooster, Alex P. Lima, Sten P. Willemsen, and Jan Bakker, for the LACTATE study group. Early Lactate-Guided Therapy in Intensive Care Unit Patients. Am J Respir Crit Care Med Vol 182. pp 752–761, 2010

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### **ESA Dräger Prize in Intensive Care Medicine**

The annual ESA Dräger Prize in Intensive Care Medicine is given to an anesthetic or intensive care department rather than to an individual researcher in order to emphasize the importance of a team approach in science. “With the prize, we want to honour scientific publications of significant clinical relevance on anaesthesia and intensive care medicine”, explains Remich.

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