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Comments on “Heart rate and respiratory response to doxapram in patients with panic disorder.”

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Authors' reply to: Perna, G., Schruers, K.R.G., Freire, C.R., Nardi, A.E., Caldirola, D., in press. Comments on "Heart rate and respiratory response to doxapram in patients with panic disorder." *Psychiatry Res.*<sup>☆</sup>

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## Authors' reply

*To the Editor:*

We appreciate the interest in our work by Dr. Perna and his colleagues, a group that has contributed a great deal to our understanding of panic disorder. We regret that the writers find our conclusion "inappropriate and overstated," but we believe neither adjective is an appropriate reflection of that conclusion. In fact, we believe that our statement fits the data presented in the paper well. Any other conclusions, such as those proposed by the writers, would in fact have gone beyond the data we accumulated.

To address their specific three points, we agree of course that larger sample sizes are always preferable. The observation that the patterns of respiratory rate change between controls and patients during doxapram injection differed is intriguing and might become statistically significant with a larger sample size. However, our sample size was sufficient to show

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<sup>☆</sup> Letter to the Editor

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