The authors’ reply:

Dr. Jorens is correct in pointing out that propylene glycol is another toxic alcohol that can cause an elevation in serum lactate concentration using enzymatic spectrophotometry due to the accumulation of the metabolite D-lactate. This is a true elevation, as lactate is actually present in the sample. In our patient with severe ethylene glycol poisoning (1), no other metabolites aside from glycolate interfered with the measurement of lactate by gas chromatography. These results add further support to the previously identified cross-reaction in patients with severe ethylene glycol poisoning. Thus, patients with suspected ethylene glycol poisoning and elevated anion gap metabolic acidosis should not experience delays to receive life-saving therapies (fomepizole, hemodialysis) just because the serum lactate concentration is elevated.

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References