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Dear Viktor,

Thanks for your thoughtful answer to my comment about the competition hypothesis. I didn't intend it as a challenge, however, but more as a question. I basically agree with your point about the difference between evidence for the competition hypothesis vs attempts to uncover the mechanisms involved. However, it is still debatable whether a supernumerary limb more closely replicates the normal situation than neuromuscular blockade. The observation that the former saves 15% whereas the latter virtually 100% could be evidence against your contention. Furthermore, I have no way of evaluating whether, in this case, the surgery, etc. attending transplantation of an extra limb is more or less abnormal than drug treatment. Alan Lamb's recent paper on the naturally occurring Xenopus with 2-3 times ^{of} extra limb tissue seems to suggest that competition may only be a small part of the explanation; he found only 18% hypothermia!

Warm regards,
Ron