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## SUMMARY

The optimal fluid therapy for plasma volume support at major surgical procedures and in the treatment of critically ill patients has been a matter of considerable controversy during the last few years. The impact of the ongoing debate on Swedish routines has been assessed from a detailed questionnaire sent to all operation (OP) and intensive care units (ICU) in Sweden (n=130) in September 2004. Response was obtained from 92 % of the units. It was found that major changes in fluid treatment regimes had occurred in recent years. In spite of the anti-colloid debate in the 1990s the continued use of colloids was evident. The use of albumin was reduced while that of other colloids had increased. Dextran was no longer the dominating colloid since a majority of the departments reported a switch to hydroxyethyl starch (HES). The switch was based on recent information on the advantages and disadvantages of the various products available. Gelatin was only marginally used since it was no longer available on the market. The fluid treatment profile documented on the basis of the responses to the questionnaire agreed well with the recent sale figures of albumin and artificial colloids. A restrictive fluid therapy at surgical procedures is recently advocated based on administration of colloid but only a rather limited volume of crystalloid. Some caution in the application of such a fluid therapy approach seems justified. More liberal fluid administration has recently been found rather to improve recovery after laparoscopic surgery.

Hengo Haljamäe

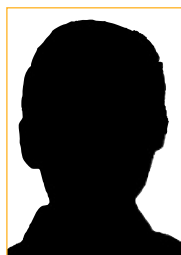
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## Medicinshistorisk paus

### Sten Torstenson:

»Jag tror vi måste ta hand om varandra bättre i framtiden«

|| Rubrikens citat är slutorden i en roman av Sten Torstenson, ett tämligen pekoralistiskt verk om kärlek på lasarett med samtliga klassiska ingredienser. Den handlar om en ung mans väg till sin kvinna (jo, de får varandra på slutet!), dramatik på operationsavdelningar och förlösningssalar, tentamensskräck och en vård karakteriserad av en närmast militärisk disciplin.



Sten Torstenson, en litteraturens doidis. Vem var han?

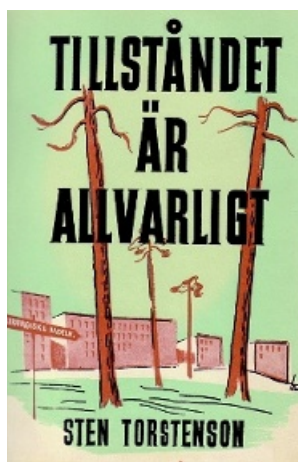
Här ytterligare ett citat som fångar bokens ton:

»Hon hade kommit honom till mötes med nästan moderlig omsorg och hade velat göra sitt bästa för att förjaga hans ensamhetskänsla...«

Men vem i all världen var då författaren, denne Sten Torstenson?

Jo, i själva verket en pseudonym för Gunnar Biörck (1916–1997), som skrev denna roman 1942 under annat namn. Han lär ha försökt få detta sitt ungdomsalster indraget när karriären tog fart – och det blev en lång och lysande karriär.

Gunnar Biörck, professor i invärtesmedicin med framför allt kardiologisk inriktning, var en synnerligen framsynt man, bland de första att införa infarkt-



Kärlek på lasarett med samtliga klassiska ingredienser.

avdelningar i vården och knyta professionell ekonomisk kompetens till klinikledningen. Han var en flitig debattör, briljant, verbal och ofta kontroversiell.

Slutet av sin bana ägnade han politiken, som riksdagsman för moderata samlingspartiet.

Ett mycket bättre Gunnar Biörck-citat än pekoralet ovan är t ex:

»En av fördelarna med att ha sin framtid bakom sig är att man kan säga vad man tänker utan att behöva tänka på vad man säger.«

Stephan Rössner

professor,  
 Karolinska Universitetssjukhuset Huddinge