

ABSTRACTS

Editorial Comment: A fixed style of presentation for this department of ANESTHESIOLOGY has purposely not been defined. It is the wish of the Editorial Board to provide our readers with the type of abstract they desire. Correspondence is invited offering suggestions in regard to the length of abstracts, character of them, and source of them. The Board will appreciate the cooperation of the membership of the Society in submitting abstracts of outstanding articles to be considered for publication.

LANDAU, S. W.; NELSON, W. A., AND GAY, L. N.: *Antihistaminic Properties of Local Anesthetics and Anesthetic Properties of Antihistaminic Compounds*. *J. Allergy* 22: 19-30 (Jan.) 1951.

"There exists wide disagreement regarding the influence of anesthetic drugs on histamine effects and anaphylactic phenomena as well as regarding the degree of anesthesia produced by the various antihistaminic substances. In an attempt to clarify some of the aspects of the problem, we (1) studied the effect of local anesthetics on some histamine and anaphylactic reactions, and (2) compared the anesthetic power of a number of antihistaminic compounds with that of a standard local anesthetic in animal and man. . . . It may be concluded that the comparatively low antihistaminic potency of procaine in animals makes it doubtful that its clinical efficacy in allergic conditions is due to an antihistaminic effect.

"The marked anesthetic power of the antihistaminic compounds cannot be unimportant. It is probable that some effects of these compounds are due to this anesthetic activity. Burn stated: 'Antihistaminic substances, then, join the group of other substances, which include spasmolytics like Trasentine and Syntropan, analgesics like penthi-dine and papaverine, local anesthetics like procaine, and atropin-like substances. None of these can be sharply distinguished from one another. Probably each possesses every property in

some degree.' It is due to this situation that it may remain difficult to separate more clearly the antihistaminic from the anesthetic action of the antihistaminic compounds. . . .

"The antihistaminic effect of procaine and Stovaine in the Dale bath was 0.01 of that of Benadryl. Procaine hydrochloride intravenously injected immediately before an intravenous lethal or sublethal dose of histamine had no protective effect in guinea pigs. Stovaine, with the same technique, protected guinea pigs against histamine death and had a slightly protective effect against anaphylactic shock. Antihistaminic compounds had from 2 to 2.5 times as much anesthetic effect as procaine in the guinea pig skin wheel and from 2.4 to 4 times as much anesthetic effect as procaine in human skin."

A. A.

BALDWIN, C. A., JR.: *A Comparison of Ephedrine and Desoxyephedrine in Maintaining Blood Pressure During Spinal Analgesia*. *U. S. Armed Forces M. J.* 1: 1495-1498 (Dec.) 1950.

"Four hundred patients were studied to determine the relative value of ephedrine and desoxyephedrine in combating the hypotension produced by the administration of a spinal anesthetic agent. Fifteen milligrams of desoxyephedrine given prophylactically is more effective than 25 mg. of ephedrine and less effective than 50 mg. of ephedrine."

A. A.