CURRENT COMMENT

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Anileridine as Preoperative Medication

Drs. Lulu H. Warner and M. Gene Black of Holyoke, Massachusetts, tested the value of anileridine for preoperative medication, using meperidine (Demerol) and promethazine (Phenergan) for comparison. A blind test was made so that the 3 drugs were known to the investigators only by number.

They studied a group of 206 patients who represented consecutive admissions of males and females between the ages of 20 and 50. Drug number 1, meperidine, was given in doses ranging from 75 to 125 mg.; drug number 2, promethazine, was given in doses ranging from 15 to 30 mg., and drug number 3, anileridine, was given in doses ranging from 20 to 40 mg. The only other medication given was atropine 0.4 mg. The selected drug plus atropine was administered one hour before surgery.

Fifty-five patients received meperidine in doses ranging from 50 to 125 mg. Of these 7 were wide awake and apprehensive on arrival in surgery, 9 were sleeping and 39 were awake but drowsy and tranquil. Three complained of nausea and 3 complained of headache. In 3 cases the induction of general anesthesia was accompanied by coughing and mild laryngospasm and one case showed an increase in secretions. The last 4 complications occurred in patients who were either sleeping or drowsy on arrival in the operating room.

Sixty-five patients received promethazine in doses ranging from 15 to 30 mg. Of these, 16 were apprehensive, 4 were sleeping, and 40 were drowsy and tranquil. Two complained of nausea. There were no headaches in this group. Six cases showed a stormy induction with general anesthesia.

Eighty-six patients received anileridine in doses ranging from 10 to 40 mg. Of these, 6 were apprehensive, 12 were sleeping, and 68 were drowsy and tranquil. One complained of nausea and one of headache. Two patients showed increased secretions during the induction of general anesthesia, otherwise all inductions were smooth.

The most striking result in the study was the incidence of serenity and tranquility, 93 per cent, observed in the patients given anileridine. Only 6 of the 86 patients were awake and apprehensive. Thirty-three patients received doses of 25 to 30 mg., and 90 per cent of these were asleep or drowsy. Thirty-seven patients received 35 to 40 mg., and 97 per cent of these were asleep or drowsy . Thirty-nine patients received 100 to 125 mg. of meperidine and 87 per cent of these were tranquil. In this study 25 to 30 mg. doses of anileridine were equivalent in sedative properties to 100 to 125 mg. of meperidine. Only 67 per cent of patients receiving promethazine in doses of 15 to 30 mg. were drowsy.

GADGETS

Electric Current Resuscitator

Dr. Lewis H. Lambert, of Hanover, New Hampshire, reports that recently there has appeared on the market a new type of electric current resuscitator, the Electronic Resuscitator, based on the principle of electrical currents causing diaphragmatic movements with resultant movement of gases in and out of the lungs. According to the manufacturer the current provided consists of a damped oscillation, so highly damped that the first half pulse is predominant. The duration of this short pulse is in the order of micro-seconds. The current is approximately 20 micro-amperes at maximum, with a voltage of 0 to 60,000 volts. The current is applied to the body by means of a glass electrode filled with