

HYPOTHERMIA

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COLD is by no means a new therapeutic tool, for its numbing effects have been recognized throughout the ages, and occasional use has been made of this knowledge in medicine for centuries. Hippocrates, who advocated snow and ice to check hemorrhage, was aware of the analgesic nature of cold;¹⁸ and refrigeration anesthesia was employed sporadically both during the Renaissance and subsequently, the most celebrated instance being by Napoleon's surgeon-general Baron Larrey, who noted that there was no pain during amputations performed on soldiers who had lain on the battlefield at low environmental temperatures. The use of refrigeration anesthesia was increased considerably in 1866 with the introduction of an ether spray for the purpose of producing local anesthesia by freezing tissues. This technique was later modified by the use of ethyl chloride which, because it evaporates more quickly, is more effective than ether in this form of anesthesia. The use of refrigeration anesthesia has been greatly extended in more recent times for amputations of gangrenous extremities.

The concept of total body hypothermia, as contrasted to refrigeration anesthesia, dates back to the time of the illustrious John Hunter, who attempted to freeze carp to a state of suspended animation;¹⁹ but most early observations on hypothermia were limited to reports of survival after accidental exposure to severe cold or occasional physiological studies in laboratory animals. The deliberate application of hypothermia to clinical problems in medicine was pioneered by Temple Fay in 1940 for the treatment of malignant disease,²⁰ based on the observation that metastases were rare in the periphery of limbs where the temperature was lower. He obtained some striking examples of relief of intractable pain, and some re-

gression of malignant growths, especially when the cold was applied locally, as in carcinoma of the cervix; but in general there was a failure to achieve reversal of the cancerous process. Talbott in 1941 also employed prolonged total body hypothermia, as a form of treatment in psychotic patients, but with little success and with two deaths from cardiac failure.⁴⁰¹ McQuiston made a significant contribution in 1949 when he advocated total body cooling during operations on children with cyanotic heart disease; but his original concept was to reduce oxygen demand more by counteracting hypothermia than by the production of true hypothermia.²⁰⁰ The current clinical interest in total body hypothermia stems chiefly from laboratory observations on the almost linear reduction of oxygen consumption that occurs with decrease in body temperature made in 1950 by Bigelow and his coworkers, who suggested the physiologic feasibility of complete occlusion of the circulation to the heart to permit intracardiac operation in a bloodless field.^{42, 44, 45} Since that time, hypothermia has been employed extensively not only for intracardiac surgery, but also for a variety of other types of surgical procedures and as a therapeutic adjunct in the treatment of a variety of pathological conditions.

Hypothermia has been defined as a state of body temperature which is below normal in a homeothermic organism.⁴⁰³ In common medical parlance today, however, the term has come to have a variety of connotations and denotations, depending largely upon the concepts of the individual employing the word. It becomes essential, therefore, in referring to total body hypothermia, to understand fully that the term may have different meanings according to both the depth and the duration of the hypothermia under discussion; and to realize further that there is no real uniformity to these meanings. Thus, what is called "moderate" hypothermia by one laboratory worker

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may be regarded as "deep" hypothermia by his clinical colleague. For purposes of semantics in this review, light hypothermia will be considered as a body temperature in the range 37–32 C., intermediate or moderate hypothermia in the range 32–26 C., deep hypothermia in the range 26–20 C., and profound hypothermia below 20 C. In similar fashion, acute hypothermia will be regarded as the production of the hypothermic state for but a few hours, and chronic or prolonged hypothermia as the production of the hypothermic state for a period of many hours, days, or even weeks.

PHYSIOLOGIC EFFECTS

The exact nature of the physiologic effects produced by hypothermia will depend in large measure, as suggested above, on the depth and duration of the hypothermia, but will also vary according to the species, the age, the type of cooling, the rate of cooling, shivering, the presence or absence of anesthesia, the type and level of anesthesia, the mode of pulmonary ventilation, the nutritional status, and a host of other factors. The majority of laboratory studies have been conducted in the dog during moderate or deep hypothermia, but many other species and levels of body temperature have been used in addition. The extensive disparity in the recorded physiological effects of hypothermia has often been due to the variable conditions under which observations have been made, and it is necessary to exert caution in their interpretation. For example, acid-base shifts observed in dogs cooled during spontaneous respirations are not comparable to those seen in dogs cooled to the same temperature during adequate artificial ventilation. Quite obviously, even greater caution must be exerted in the translation to man of observations made in the experimental animal. Finally, it must be remembered that considerable individual variation will occur within a single species as far as the studies of any given parameter are concerned—and this applies, perhaps, particularly to man.

Initial Response. In general, it may be said that the initial response of the homeothermic organism to external cold is one that mimics intense sympathetic stimulation: shivering occurs, vasoconstriction is profound, oxygen consumption increases tremendously, the respira-

tory rate is accelerated, the pulse rate is raised, blood pressure is elevated, and there is significant increase in cardiac output.^{45, 309, 318} Thus, the initial response to cooling is the opposite to that sought clinically, since the responses evoked early in the cooling period tend to decrease heat loss and increase endogenous heat production. These initial responses can be avoided to a great extent if sufficient anesthesia is administered to counter the defensive reactions induced by the powerful stimulus of cold; at about 28–30 C., "cold narcosis" supervenes and further anesthetic administration is unnecessary either to prevent shivering or to maintain unconsciousness.⁴⁴ However, even in the absence of anesthesia, and in spite of the fact that this stress response may actually produce a slight rise in temperature,²³ it will not prevent—although it may delay—the development of hypothermia.⁴¹⁹ In the horrible experiment performed by the Nazis at Dachau, prisoners were immersed in water at a temperature of 2–12 C.: there was initial violent shivering, succeeded by intense muscular rigidity; consciousness became clouded at rectal temperatures of 31 C.; and both muscular rigidity and shivering were abolished at rectal temperatures around 27 C.¹⁰

Metabolism. The metabolic effects of hypothermia obviously mirror the pattern of initial stimulation due to the shivering during early cooling, and unless shivering is prevented the oxygen consumption of the organism may increase initially several hundred per cent above the precooling rate.⁴⁵ However, when anesthesia is employed, or the body temperature is reduced to the point at which shivering and the defensive reactions are obtunded, there is an over-all reduction of bodily metabolism that is reflected in lowered oxygen consumption.^{45, 119, 309, 318} There has been considerable debate as to whether this fall in oxygen consumption bears a linear^{45, 119, 318} or exponential^{206, 255} relationship to the drop in body temperature, but the important fact would seem to be that there is roughly a 6 per cent fall in oxygen consumption per degree centigrade fall in body temperature within the range of hypothermia employed clinically today.²⁹⁹ Oxygen consumption of the dog, for instance, is reduced to 50 per cent of the normal at 30 C.⁴⁵ and 16 per cent of the normal at 23 C.⁹⁰

It has been widely assumed that since arteriovenous oxygen differences are not apparent during cooling, and that since oxygen utilization rises during the rewarming period parallel to body temperature, oxygen debt is not incurred by the body in hypothermia;^{4, 45} but more sophisticated biochemical analyses now suggest that this may not be the fact, since the reduction of oxygen uptake by the cell may not necessarily correspond to a reduction of oxygen requirement by the cell.⁷⁴ In any event, even if the body as a whole does not contract an oxygen debt during hypothermia, it is quite possible that individual organs may do so, at least during prolonged hypothermia at low temperatures.^{150, 156}

Respiration. The effects of hypothermia upon respiration also mirror the pattern of initial stimulation followed by ultimate depression. There is, with the exception of the transient increases seen during the early cooling period,^{45, 208, 318} a close and almost linear correlation between the fall in body temperature and the decrease in respiratory rate and depth.⁴ At about 24 C. (in the dog) a respiratory crisis occurs, and the respiratory volume diminishes to the point of cessation.²⁹⁸ Further cooling then necessitates artificial ventilation, and this is almost standard procedure in the experimental preparation at the temperature levels of moderate or deep hypothermia.⁴⁵

Both the physiologic and anatomic respiratory deadspace are increased during hypothermia, apparently due to bronchodilatation;³⁷¹ but this appears to be the only major change in the lungs, since distribution and diffusion functions are well maintained as low as 20 C. in the dog. The oxygen dissociation curve is shifted to the left in hypothermia,⁷⁷ so that although oxygen combines easily with the blood's hemoglobin, it dissociates only at unusually low tissue pressures of oxygen: therefore, despite the reduced pulmonary ventilation during hypothermia, the respiratory volume is large in comparison to the volume of oxygen removed from the inspired air.¹²¹ Nevertheless, analyses of arteriovenous oxygen differences indicate that the same fraction of oxygen is extracted from the blood at 18 C. as at 38 C. suggesting, as already noted, that the tissues contract no significant oxygen debt during hypothermia.^{45, 190, 310, 340}

During rewarming, respiratory movements return at about 28 C. and regular respirations at about 30 C.²⁹⁸

Circulation. The effects of hypothermia upon the circulation, and particularly upon heart action, are crucial factors, inasmuch as with progressive cooling acute hypothermia eventually leads to either asystole or ventricular fibrillation. There is an early increase in heart rate,¹⁹² associated with either visible or occult shivering, but after this initial tachycardia the pulse rate falls linearly with the decrease in body temperature.^{20, 90, 99, 205} Heart rate, in the dog, is about 40 beats per minute at 25 C. and 15-30 beats per minute at 18-20 C. This profound bradycardia is not influenced by either vagotomy or atropinization, and it is probable that it represents a direct effect of cold upon the sinus pacemaker.³¹⁸

Of even more importance than the change in heart rate are the disturbances of cardiac rhythm which occur during acute hypothermia. The electrocardiogram shows a prolongation of the P-R interval, lengthening of the QRS complex, and an increase in the duration of the Q-T interval.^{45, 180, 218, 318, 376} These delays in intraventricular conduction time⁷² are almost directly related to the temperature^{105, 142, 205} and produce marked lengthening of both electrical and mechanical systole.⁴⁵ In addition the ST segment may become elevated or depressed; and the T-wave may become diphasic, then deeply and bizarrely inverted as the temperature approaches 20 C.:²⁰⁵ these latter electrocardiographic changes have been compared to those seen in myocardial anoxia.²⁴² Arrhythmias are frequent at temperatures below 28 C., and may take the form of nodal rhythm, premature ventricular contractions, auricular-ventricular block, or even ventricular fibrillation.⁴⁴ Indeed, as already noted, when cooling is continued below 20 C., either ventricular fibrillation or cardiac asystole will occur;^{13, 116} and the smaller the animal species, the lower will be the critical temperature for such cessation of effective cardiac activity.⁵ A peculiar electrocardiographic wave has been noted which rises steeply from the S-wave^{109, 145, 221} and is said to presage the onset of ventricular fibrillation,^{56, 141, 158} although certainly fibrillation occurs often in the absence of this "current of injury."¹⁶¹ Whether or not cessation

of effective cardiac activity occurs as a result of myocardial hypoxia remains debatable: ^{21, 22, 28} glycogen stores of the heart muscle are depleted during hypothermia,^{21, 23} but it has been claimed that there is no interference with the conversion of aerobic energy into useful work.²³ During rewarming, there is a return toward a normal electrocardiogram in the experimental animals, but the voltage of the QRS complex remains low, and the T-wave and ST segments are of different form from those seen prior to cooling.⁴⁴

Even in the absence of serious arrhythmias, however, cardiac output falls quite markedly during hypothermia. There is an initial rise during the stimulatory phase of cooling, but then cardiac output falls to very low levels as the body temperature is reduced,^{78, 220} being 14 per cent of the normal at 20 C.⁴⁴ and 10 per cent of the normal at 17 C.¹⁹⁰ The fall in cardiac output apparently is not due to decreased ventricular contractility;^{104, 167} and although coronary blood flow is reduced rather markedly during hypothermia,^{39, 132} it is thought to be sufficient to maintain an adequate supply of oxygen to the myocardium²²⁰ since the reduction in cardiac work is proportionately greater than the reduction in coronary blood flow.²²³ Deep hypothermia will depress the myocardium directly,^{104, 167} however, and prolonged hypothermia may produce actual stagnant anoxemia.¹²⁶

As a result of the decreased cardiac output, blood pressure generally falls in hypothermia,²¹⁸ but it may not always do so at the temperatures of moderate or light hypothermia employed clinically.³²⁹ Usually, however, there is a rise in blood pressure during the early cooling period, followed by a gradual fall as body temperature is reduced: below 24 C. a crisis occurs, and there is a rapid onset of a severe degree of hypotension.²¹⁸ The fall in blood pressure is due chiefly to the reduction in cardiac output, inasmuch as the peripheral resistance, in both the systemic⁴⁵ and pulmonary circulations,²⁴⁸ is increased, probably due to vasoconstriction in response to a direct action of cold blood on the arterial walls.²²⁵

Blood. The blood itself undergoes significant changes during deep hypothermia: viscosity is increased and there is a rather marked rise in the red blood cell count, the hemo-

globin content, and the hematocrit,¹¹⁴ probably due to a temporary loss of plasma from the circulating blood either as a result of trapping in the minute peripheral vessels²³⁷ or actual shift of water to the tissues,¹¹³ (since the red cell volume itself remains unchanged).¹⁴⁸ Conversely, there is an almost complete disappearance of platelets, white blood cells, and eosinophils during deep hypothermia^{197, 417} as a result of sequestration in the liver, spleen, and possibly also in the gut and bone marrow.⁴⁰⁷ This thrombocytopenia is associated with prolonged bleeding and clotting times at 20 C.,^{101, 154, 277, 406} but these changes may not be seen at the temperatures of moderate hypothermia which are employed clinically.¹³⁹

Milieu Interne. The biochemical changes of the body during hypothermia are extremely complex, and are particularly dependent upon the presence or absence of shivering, and the type of respiration. Spontaneous respiration becomes depressed during hypothermia, as already noted, and results in a fall in the pH of the blood,^{121, 159} which is accentuated if shivering is allowed to occur during the early cooling period.²⁹⁸ The development of such an acidosis may be of significance in the production of ventricular fibrillation,⁴⁰⁰ but it can also have the theoretical advantages of counteracting the effect of low temperature on the oxygen dissociation curve, and of compensating for the depressant action of low temperature on the respiratory center.¹¹⁰

Changes in the electrolytes of the body are also much influenced by the type of ventilation and the occurrence of shivering. The concentration of serum sodium either does not change appreciably during hypothermia,^{112, 119, 159, 400} or is decreased to a moderate extent.²⁹⁸ Plasma potassium may fall^{32, 228, 382, 400} or rise¹²⁸ during hypothermia, particularly if shivering occurs (as a result of the release of potassium by the breakdown of liver glycogen), but this rise may be prevented or converted to an actual decrease in serum potassium by hyperventilation.⁴⁰⁰ Serum calcium is also increased during hypothermia,^{10, 280} and in the presence of unchanged or decreased plasma potassium¹²⁸ can result in an increased calcium/potassium ratio which may be partially responsible for the enhanced myocardial sensitivity.³² Considerable attention has been directed to the shifts in

concentrations of these cations, in view of the fact that cardiac conduction depends to a considerable degree upon the proper distribution of sodium, potassium, and calcium; but conflicting data exist on the question of whether or not significant changes in their concentrations occur in the myocardial cell.^{34, 209, 282, 282} A linear increase in serum magnesium with reduction of rectal temperature has been demonstrated, but the relation of this finding to cardiac conduction is also not clear.³¹³

Hyperglycemia occurs as a result of the shivering of early hypothermia,¹⁰² but also occurs in the absence of shivering because of a failure to metabolize glucose at temperatures of 30 C. and below;⁴²³ and this impairment of metabolism applies to both exogenous and endogenous glucose.⁴²⁴ These facts have led a number of workers to employ glucose infusions with caution in patients during hypothermia.

Kidneys. There is a twofold effect of hypothermia on renal function, one an indirect effect upon glomerular filtration mediated via the cardiovascular system, and the other a direct effect upon tubular processes. As the body temperature is reduced, the progressive reduction in mean blood pressure leads to a reduction in renal blood flow²⁷⁴ and in glomerular filtration rate.^{279, 284, 302} The decrease in glomerular filtration rate, however, does not lead to a decrease in urine volume of comparable degree,²⁸⁶ indicating that there is impairment of reabsorption in the distal tubules, probably as a direct effect of cold.¹¹ This depression of function in the distal tubules not only prevents the reabsorption of water, sodium, and glucose,^{223, 306} but also the excretion of potassium,²⁰⁴ and the production of ammonia and creatinine.²⁶⁷ Both blood flow and filtration rate return to only about two-thirds of normal immediately upon rewarming, but are normal within twenty-four hours.²⁸⁶

Liver. Splanchnic blood flow has been shown to decrease progressively and in linear fashion as the body temperature falls during acute hypothermia.¹⁹² This decrease in blood flow is accompanied by a decreased oxygen utilization and carbon dioxide production. The liver can apparently continue to utilize oxygen and avoid hepatocellular hypoxia even at a body temperature of 25 C.,¹⁰⁶ but there is

suggestive evidence that during prolonged hypothermia at lower temperatures the liver may contract an oxygen debt.¹⁵² Bile flow is slowed in the hypothermic liver,⁹³ and liver glycogen is rapidly utilized: in animals with ample stores of carbohydrate at the initiation of cooling blood glucose is increased during the early phases of hypothermia and remains elevated. Of great clinical importance is the effect of depressed hepatic metabolism on drug detoxification. The half life of morphine increases from 3.7 minutes at 37 C. to 94 minutes at 24 C., a twenty-three-fold increase in the time necessary for the liver to conjugate free morphine.²²³ similar, though less extensive, effect on the detoxification of thiopental has also been demonstrated, and may well apply to the conjugation and detoxification of other drugs. However, although liver function is quantitatively decreased during the actual phase of hypothermia, liver function appears to return to normal following rewarming.¹⁸²

Endocrine System. The initial induction of hypothermia produces a stressor effect as indicated by a moderate activation of the adrenal cortex,^{122, 306} but following the establishment of the hypothermic state there is depression of pituitary, ACTH, and adrenal cortical secretions.^{41, 102, 222} Adrenal sensitivity to exogenous ACTH is likewise markedly reduced, apparently as a direct effect of lowered temperature on the adrenocortical cell.¹²⁴ There is prompt return of adrenal activity upon rewarming, and, indeed, there may even be overactivity during recovery from hypothermia.²⁶²

Central Nervous System. The effects of hypothermia upon nervous tissue, and particularly upon the central nervous system as an entity, are varied. Cooling slows the speed of conduction in peripheral nerves,⁸⁷ impedes neuromuscular transmission,⁸⁹ and depresses the responses of the subcortical areas and the spinal cord.³⁸⁶ However, it also results in a loss of "purity" of reflex response, so that a single stimulus, such as a muscle stretch, which evokes a pure monosynaptic response at normal temperature, elicits a reflex with a polysynaptic component: incoming impulses create central effects which "spill over" or involve other pathways not normally activated.³⁰¹ As progressive cooling continues a stage is reached at which a single afferent volley evokes multiple moto-

neuron discharges. In this phase of hyperactivity, hypothermia may aggravate epilepsy and certain other types of neural seizures. With progressive cooling, this hyperreflexia and response to light stimuli is abolished, cerebriation is progressively delayed, and there is occurrence of retrograde amnesia.¹⁴⁷ These latter findings are in accord with electroencephalographic studies, which disclose a depression of cortical activity during cooling with little or no activity below 20 C.⁸³

Of considerable clinical importance is the effect of hypothermia upon cerebral blood flow and cerebral oxygen consumption.³⁶ The level of systemic blood pressure appears to be the most important single factor controlling cerebral blood flow at hypothermic temperatures,¹ but cerebral vascular resistance is almost always increased and must also be a significant factor.⁶ With the usual decrease in blood pressure seen during hypothermia in the dog there is a definite reduction of cerebral blood flow: between 35 and 25 C., there is a decrease in cerebral blood flow of 6.7 per cent per degree centigrade fall in body temperature, so that cerebral blood flow is about 50 per cent of its control value at a temperature of 29 C.³⁴².³⁴³ Cerebral oxygen consumption falls at a similar rate during hypothermia in this temperature range,^{342, 345} but only if shivering is prevented: it is not valid to assume that hypothermia will always depress cerebral metabolism, since, even at temperatures below 28 C., cerebral oxygen utilization may be increased over 100 per cent if shivering occurs, despite a decreased cerebral blood flow.³⁴⁷ The decreased cerebral metabolism which generally pertains during hypothermia occurs in the face of an unchanged arteriovenous oxygen difference, suggesting that there is no hypoxic damage to cerebral tissue.¹³³

Also of clinical importance is the effect of hypothermia upon both brain volume and the extracerebral space within the cranial cavity. In the dog at 25 C., there is a decrease in brain volume of 4.1 per cent and an increase in extra-cranial space (or that part of the intracranial space not occupied by the brain) of 31.8 per cent.³⁴⁴ These changes are the results of both the fall in cerebral blood flow which has already been mentioned, and a fall in cerebrospinal fluid pressure, which occurs at

a rate of 5.5 per cent per degree centigrade fall in body temperature.³⁴⁴

Both the parasympathetic and sympathetic divisions of the autonomic nervous system appear to be depressed during hypothermia, and quite markedly below 28 C.³² The exact cause of this depression is not clear, but it may be related to the status of the neurohormones. Upon rewarming, the sympathetic component of the autonomic nervous system returns to normal, but there may be delay in the return of the parasympathetic component to normal activity.

TECHNIQUES

The most important of these various physiologic effects from the clinical point of view, of course, is the general reduction of body metabolism, and particularly the reduction of myocardial and cerebral metabolism, that occurs during hypothermia. It is this reduction of metabolism that is sought clinically to permit temporary circulatory occlusion for operative interventions or to counteract the increased metabolism of certain pathological processes. The techniques employed to produce the hypothermic state, therefore, must be designed not only to effect body cooling, but to do so without evoking the neurologic and endocrinologic responses which may be produced by cold. These techniques have often employed complex equipment, but they are basically simple: they consist of, first, measures to control the protective reflexes (shivering and vasoconstriction); and, second, actually cooling the patient.

ANESTHESIA: The initial response of the homeothermic organism to surface cold is a combination of shivering and vasoconstriction. Shivering, which may be either visible or occult, or even take the form of a type of muscular rigidity, results both in a delay of cooling by the production of increased endogenous heat and in a number of undesirable physiological reactions, such as increased metabolism and increased cardiac output, that are quite the reverse of those intended.¹²⁷ Cooling is brought about by an increase in the temperature gradient between the body surface and the body core,³⁴⁴ and is generally preceded by the most immediate response of the body to cold, vasoconstriction in the skin and subcutaneous tissues. Vasoconstriction not only de-

lays cooling, but also increases peripheral resistance and thus leads to increased energy expenditure by the organism. The anesthetic techniques employed in the production of hypothermia have relied variously upon chlorpromazine, general anesthesia itself, or curarization, to obtund shivering and vasoconstriction.

Chlorpromazine. Chlorpromazine has been shown to be the effective agent in the "lytic cocktail" employed to produce the mild hypothermia obtained by the French technique of artificial hibernation,^{120, 284, 326} for it not only prevents shivering by a central action, but also produces vasodilatation.¹²⁶ Chlorpromazine has been employed extensively for the production of hypothermia, and it is still a valuable adjuvant to chronic hypothermia; the popularity of its use for the production of acute hypothermia, however, has waned considerably because the drug's prolonged action can lead to persistent vasodilatation and hypotension which are undesirable in the postoperative period.³²⁴ Attempts to find other agents that would have shorter acting effects from amongst the group of autonomic blocking drugs have not been entirely successful.³⁴⁴ Although a number of shorter acting adrenolytic or ganglionic blocking agents will produce vasodilatation, they do not share chlorpromazine's activity in the control of shivering.¹²⁶

General Anesthesia. General anesthesia, if carried to sufficient depth, will of course both prevent shivering and produce vasodilatation.⁴⁵ Almost all of the general anesthetic agents have been employed for the production of hypothermia, and each has its own protagonists. Ether stimulates both respiratory rate and respiratory volume, and this respiratory drive has been considered desirable in overcoming the respiratory depression inherent in the hypothermic state.¹⁷⁰ Thiopental has been thought particularly useful for the prevention of cardiac arrhythmias^{315, 320} and even ventricular fibrillation³³² during hypothermia, although systematic study has failed to reveal that the type of anesthesia *per se* is a significant factor in the incidence of ventricular fibrillation during hypothermia.¹⁷ Fluothane, if administered to a sufficient depth of anesthesia, will both cause considerable vasodilatation and prevent shivering, and its non-flammability makes it a par-

ticularly desirable agent in the presence of electrocoagulation during neurosurgical procedures conducted under hypothermia.⁴⁴⁰ Even nitrous oxide has been said to prevent the shivering inherent in the hypothermic technique (because of its analgesic action),³⁰³ but sufficient vasodilatation for the induction of hypothermia with safe concentrations of nitrous oxide is unlikely without resort to supplemental measures.

Muscle Relaxants. In point of fact, the use of a single general anesthetic agent alone for the induction of hypothermia necessitates undesirably deep levels of anesthesia,³⁶⁸ and the most common clinical practice at the present time is to use curarization in combination with light levels of general anesthesia. The precise muscle relaxant employed is not important, since all will prevent shivering if given in sufficient dosage: some have used gallamine,³⁶⁹ others succinylcholine,⁷⁹ but the majority of clinical workers have favored curare.^{144, 411} Curarization with light general anesthesia, however, may not be capable of overcoming vasoconstriction and preventing hypertension, and in such instances it may be necessary to employ such hypotensive drugs as trimethaphan^{9, 79} or the methonium compounds.⁴¹² It is worth noting, from the clinical point of view, that lowering muscle temperature increases the magnitude and the duration of action of such depolarizing neuromuscular blocking drugs as decamethonium and succinylcholine; whereas the intensity of neuromuscular blockade produced by substances such as *d*-tubocurarine, which block by competition with acetylcholine, is reduced by cooling.⁴²⁷

METHODS OF COOLING: The means by which actual cooling of the patient is accomplished can be classified into three major categories: surface cooling, body cavity cooling, and direct blood stream cooling.

Surface Cooling. Surface cooling has been the most popular of these methods to date. It may be accomplished by the simple application of ice bags,¹⁷⁵ a technique which is both inexpensive and readily available, but also slow, cumbersome, relatively unesthetic (when the ice bags leak, as they often do), and lacking in accurate control of the temperature level.

Cooling by immersion in cold water or ice

water is the most rapid (as the cooling agent is more evenly distributed over the body surface) and one of the most widely used of the various surface cooling techniques.^{47, 403, 427} The technique consists of placing the patient in a tub partially filled with water and crushed ice, and when a sufficient degree of hypothermia has been accomplished, the patient is removed from the tub and positioned on the operating table. This disadvantage can be avoided by the use of a collapsible tube consisting of a rigid frame that can be attached to the operating room table to hold a large rubber or plastic sheet in the form of a tub; when the temperature has been lowered to the proper degree, the water can be quickly emptied and there is no need to move the patient, a maneuver that has been condemned as dangerous in the hypothermic state.^{145, 188, 202}

Refrigerating mattresses or blankets, with coils to circulate fluid contained within them, permit either cooling or rewarming by regulation of the temperature of the circulating fluid.^{47, 95, 213} This method therefore has more controllability of body temperature than immersion cooling, but the rate of cooling is relatively slower. A major disadvantage is the expense of the cooling units available commercially, although much of this expense can be avoided by the use of ingenuity in constructing simple homemade units.⁷

Air can also be used as a cooling medium in surface cooling, and extremely elaborate cold air chambers have been constructed which permit cooling by fanning cold air, or warming by blowing warm air, over the patient.^{58, 160, 257, 405} Considerable controllability of body temperature has been possible with such equipment: a thermocouple adjusted to the desired rectal temperature is inserted in the rectum, and when this automatically-controlled thermocouple is activated, the rectal temperature can be held at very constant levels for hours, or even days, at a time. The disadvantages of air cooling, however, have been that the apparatus is cumbersome, since it must be a chamber of sufficient size to contain not only the patient but also the heating and cooling units and the fans, and the commercial units available are almost prohibitively expensive. A simple and inexpensive method of air cooling consists merely of spraying the surface of the body

with cold tap water while fans blow upon the skin;²⁸¹ the simplicity and inexpensiveness of this method of air cooling are perhaps offset by the loss of controllability of body temperature and the rapid rate of cooling available in the cold air chamber.

Body Cavity Cooling. Body cavity cooling is a well-known technique in medicine, for cold colonic irrigations have been used by generations of physicians to counteract hyperthermia; but it has been used by only a handful of enthusiasts to induce total body hypothermia. Hypothermia can be induced during thoracotomy by perfusing cold saline into the pleural cavity, and rewarming is effected in a similar manner with warm saline.⁴⁹ The method is slow, however, since as much as 75 liters of saline may be required.³¹² An additional major disadvantage is that during cooling, the heart is exposed directly to the cold solution and cardiac irregularities are common. Peritoneal perfusion has also been employed on an experimental basis, iced saline being introduced directly into the abdominal cavity to cool the blood not only as it flows through the great vessels, but also as it flows through the portal vascular bed and other abdominal viscera. The method permits direct cooling of the intestines, liver, and other abdominal viscera; but the problems of infection and the initiation of abdominal adhesions remain unresolved. The method shares the disadvantages inherent in pleural cavity cooling of being slow, cumbersome, and producing tissue temperature gradients. In intragastric cooling a balloon introduced through the esophagus into the stomach is inflated via a double-lumened connecting tube with up to 600 ml. of water at 4-6 C., and the water is then circulated back through the connecting tube by a pump to a cooling coil before being recirculated into the gastric balloon; rewarming is effected in a similar manner.^{27, 232, 234} The technique is slow, but when combined with the use of a refrigerating blanket, intragastric cooling speeds the induction of hypothermia in comparison with the use of the cooling blanket alone.²⁹³ Even the bladder, perhaps the most unlikely of the body cavities for the purpose, can be employed to produce total body hypothermia: bladder irrigations performed with fluids at room temperature will reduce the body temperature of

a small dog as much as 4.5 degrees C. per hour.^{22b}

Direct Blood Stream Cooling. Direct blood stream cooling, or pervascular cooling, consists of removing blood from a cannulated major vessel, cooling the blood, and then returning the blood to the body through another cannulated vessel. Arteriovenous cooling employs an artery (femoral) for the withdrawal of blood, then circulates the blood through a series of coils immersed in ice water or other refrigerant fluid, and returns the blood to a vein (femoral).^{11b, 247} Arteriovenous cooling has several inherent disadvantages in comparison with other methods of direct blood stream cooling: it requires cannulation of a major artery, which has been responsible for thrombosis; its efficiency decreases *pari-passu* with the development of hypothermia, since cardiac output falls and circulation of blood through the extracorporeal coil slows; and it has the effect of an arteriovenous fistula, which may accentuate or precipitate a right-to-left shunt in some patients with congenital heart disease. Venovenous cooling, which removes blood from a vein (external jugular) and also returns it to a vein (femoral) after cooling, surmounts these drawbacks.^{21b} A pump, which can be a simple rotary type, is necessary in venovenous cooling to withdraw the blood from the circulation, move it through the cooling coil, and then return it to the body. A modification of this method inserts the withdrawal cannula through the right auricular appendage into the superior vena cava and pumps the blood back into the femoral vein after passage through a simple cooling coil^{22b} or a complex refrigerating-warming unit: this form of venovenous cooling removes the tediousness of cannulating neck veins, which can be of real difficulty in young children.⁷⁰ A further modification employs cannulation of both the superior and inferior vena cavae via the right atrial appendage, withdrawing the blood from one vena cava, cooling it, and pumping it back into the other vein. In this manner, operation can be begun at normal temperature and full cardiac exploration carried out to complete the diagnosis before making the decision as to the use of hypothermia; if operation under hypothermia is then deemed advisable, can-

nulation of the vena cavae and cooling can be carried out.⁶⁹ A final form of direct blood stream cooling, veno-arterial, consists of withdrawing blood from one of the large systemic veins and, after passing the blood through a cooling unit, pumping it back to the patient through an intra-arterial catheter. This technique increases coronary blood flow, and in the experimental animal results in a striking improvement in heart action, as well as a reduced incidence of ventricular fibrillation, during ventricular cardiomy.^{31b}

Direct blood stream cooling is without question the most rapid of all the methods of cooling, and rapid cooling has been considered desirable by some in view of the fact that the coronary blood flow during hypothermia undergoes a precipitate fall while the body temperature is being lowered from 36 to 28 C. and then at temperatures below 25 C. remains disproportionately high in spite of a falling aortic blood pressure. This danger period of precipitate reduction in coronary flow can be circumvented by the rapid cooling inherent in the pervascular cooling techniques.⁷⁰ Rapid cooling of the blood stream directly also obviates the intense body reaction to cold evoked by surface cooling, since the temperature of the body core is reduced immediately, thus depressing endocrine and hypothalamic activity almost at once. Hence, both reflex peripheral vasoconstriction of the skin vessels, due to contact with a cold stimulus, and shivering, due to temperature gradients, are in large measure avoided by the pervascular technique. Direct blood stream cooling is not without major disadvantages, however: it requires traumatic cannulation of major vessels of the body, employs a complicated pump and cooling coil that can be added worries in an already complicated technique, and it may cause damage to the formed elements of the blood when the latter is passed through a pump and system of coils.

Adjunctive Measures to Cooling. The fact that progressive hypothermia will, at sufficiently low body temperatures, lead to either ventricular fibrillation or cardiac asystole, and the fact that these events will occur at higher body temperatures when circulatory occlusion is superimposed upon hypothermia, have indi-

cated the need to support cardiac function²⁵² if longer periods of circulatory occlusion than are presently permissible are to be employed as clinical techniques. The protective effect of a well-maintained coronary flow in hypothermia induced by a simple veno-arterial pump circuit has already been noted,²⁴⁷ suggesting that myocardial failure during hypothermia can be attributed to inadequate myocardial oxygenation brought about by diminished coronary flow and progressive desaturation of the blood supplied to the coronary arteries during inflow occlusion.²²² The use of arterial transfusion,⁹⁵ or the administration of oxygenated blood by gravity from a simple reservoir into the root of the aorta above the occlusive clamp, during circulatory occlusion under hypothermia will provide an indirect coronary flow²⁶¹ which will almost double the permissible occlusion time.⁷¹ The use of heparinized blood²⁷⁵ is preferable to the use of citrated blood for this purpose, since it won't add to the acidosis usually associated with periods of inflow tract occlusion.¹²⁰ The protection provided for the heart with this method has brought to the forefront the problem of cerebral damage during circulatory occlusion under hypothermia,²²⁰ and there is evidence that under the circumstances of prolonged circulatory occlusion not only the heart but also the brain must be perfused with oxygenated blood.¹²² In fact, the safe period for circulatory occlusion in the hypothermic dog can be extended from twenty-five minutes when coronary perfusion alone is employed, up to forty minutes by the use of both coronary perfusion and carotid perfusion.²²⁸

The use of coronary perfusion, carotid perfusion, hypothermia, and circulatory occlusion, all together, is a combination of technical maneuvers awesome in its complexity, and not unreasonably perhaps has led to the logical extension of combining hypothermia with a pump-oxygenator.¹⁶⁹ There has been reluctance to combine the risks of two dangerous procedures, but in fact the combination permits the use of moderate, rather than the more dangerous deep, hypothermia,²⁰⁷ and a simple low-flow pump-oxygenator which avoids the complications inherently produced by large capacity pump-oxygenators.²⁰⁸ With this technique, both the heart and the lungs can be

bypassed, by appropriate clamping of the great veins and the aorta, and the heart thus rendered bloodless prior to cardiectomy for the performance of intracardiac operations, while the circulation to the rest of the body is maintained by the pump-oxygenator.^{171, 200} The development of extremely efficient blood heat exchangers⁷² permits rapid and highly controllable cooling and rewarming (1 degree C. fall in body temperature per minute)⁷⁶ at low blood flow rates (20-40 cc./kg. of body weight).²⁵⁹ Such a combination of moderate hypothermia and a low-flow pump-oxygenator will allow the bypassed, contracting heart to be safely deprived of coronary flow for longer periods than with hypothermia alone.¹⁷² This time can be extended by the production of elective cardiac arrest since the nonbeating hypothermic heart will withstand periods of circulatory occlusion that cannot be tolerated by a contracting heart at the same level of body temperature.¹⁷² Cardioplegia may be produced by perfusion of the coronary system with potassium citrate,²⁷² acetylcholine,^{252, 416} or a solution of potassium, magnesium and neostigmine,^{261, 425} a combination which is believed to aid in the restoration of normal heart beat (which can be decidedly difficult to accomplish in the hypothermic heart).²⁸⁰

Individual Organ Cooling. Although the selective cooling of individual organs is related to total body hypothermia only indirectly, these methods are attracting increasing laboratory interest and may become of clinical utility in the future.

Selective brain cooling was employed by Temple Fay almost twenty years ago, for the treatment of head injuries and instances of postoperative cerebral edema, by constant irrigation of the surface of the brain with cold saline through burr holes.¹⁴⁶ More recently, differential brain cooling has been accomplished by a form of direct blood stream cooling which requires doubly-cannulating the carotid artery, directing the blood through a cooling coil, and then pumping the cold blood back through the distal tubing in the carotid artery.³⁰³ With this technique it is possible to produce differential cooling of the brain to 14 C. (internal jugular blood temperature) while the general body temperature remains

above 31 C.²⁰⁶ Thus, maximal brain protection is accomplished at a heart temperature that is well above the fibrillatory range. Brain cooling to these temperature levels is not without danger²⁰² however, and cooling below 12 C. can result in central nervous system defects.²⁰⁵ In addition to brain temperature, the other important factor is perfusion flow, or pressure,⁴²⁰ which must be closely aligned with systemic arterial blood pressure to avoid the production of high systemic venous pressures, and consequent cerebral edema and cardiac failure.⁴²¹

Selective visceral cooling of abdominal organs also has been accomplished, by placing cooling coils around the liver of dogs⁸⁰ or wrapping a thin-walled plastic bag as a cooling jacket around the kidney;³⁸⁸ and both renal⁴⁸ and hepatic²⁰⁹ surgery have been accomplished clinically in isolated instances with localized organ hypothermia.

CONDUCT OF HYPOTHERMIA: The rate of cooling in the production of hypothermia will depend mainly upon the size and body build of the patient, the presence or absence of shivering and vasoconstriction, and the method of cooling. Rapid cooling is generally favored, not only for surgical convenience and to minimize the effect of cooling on coronary flow,³⁹ but also to decrease the risk of frost bite or tissue damage during surface cooling. However, rapid cooling can produce tissue temperature gradients, and it has been postulated that the effect of cold blood upon a relatively-warmer myocardium may predispose to ventricular fibrillation; furthermore, the downward "drift" of body temperature which occurs after surface cooling is discontinued (usually to the extent of about two-thirds the number of degrees the temperature has been lowered at the time cooling is discontinued) is likely to be greater if cooling has been rapid, and may lower body temperature into the range (below 28 C.) in which serious cardiac arrhythmias are common.⁴⁰⁸ During the course of the induction of hypothermia, "cold narcosis" supervenes, as previously noted, and the requirements for anesthesia are decreased during hypothermia.^{189, 362}

Monitoring. Much of the complexity associated with the techniques of hypothermia is due to the necessity of monitoring several

physiological moieties and the fact that such monitoring must be from the core, rather than the surface, of the body in order to provide information of value. A variety of electrical thermocouples are available^{92, 182, 201} which will allow continuous readings of body temperature, and the multichannel models of these thermometers permit readings to be made from a number of different body sites. It has been shown that thermal gradients exist throughout the vascular system during normothermia,²⁰⁷ and that such gradients both exist and may even be accentuated during hypothermia.^{199, 389} Studies of these gradients reveal that temperatures recorded from the lower third of the esophagus bear a closer correlation to both the true core temperature^{100, 182} and the temperature of the cerebral cortex^{199, 389} than do rectal temperatures. Indeed, rectal temperatures fall more slowly than esophageal temperatures during cooling,¹⁰⁰ and there may be a difference of up to 4 degrees Celsius between the readings at the temperatures of moderate hypothermia employed today.³⁸⁹

In similar fashion, adequate readings of arterial blood pressure must also be made from the core rather than the shell of the body, inasmuch as the intense vasoconstriction precipitated by surface cooling may cause a "clinical disappearance" of the blood pressure after a fall in body temperature of as little as one degree C.⁸⁰ When blood pressure is monitored by an intra-arterial pressure transducer, it becomes evident that not only may the pressure be recordable, but frequently there may even be a rise rather than a fall.^{50, 320}

Electrocardiographic monitoring has been almost routine during the clinical conduct of hypothermia, and in view of the disturbing cardiac effects of hypothermia, there is no doubt ample justification for this monitoring. The electroencephalogram, however, has been thought by some to be a more sensitive indicator of cerebral anoxia,^{94, 402} particularly during cardiac manipulations or total circulatory occlusion,^{259, 306, 358} and therefore perhaps reflects changes of the circulation to other vital organs in a more precise manner than does the electrocardiogram. Monitoring of the biochemical changes of the body during hypothermia is perhaps the best indication of the state of the circulation to the tissues of the

body.⁴¹⁰ Changes in the blood pH and carbon dioxide tension are of particular concern, because of the possible relationship of acidosis to the onset of ventricular fibrillation: indeed, in at least one clinic, a falling pH is sufficient indication to stop the operation until the re-establishment of normal acid-base equilibrium.²⁷ It should be emphasized that correction factors for the physicochemical effects of low temperatures must be applied to estimations of both blood pH and blood gas tensions during hypothermia.^{121, 270}

Ventilation. Ventilation, of course, is a major factor in the causation of acid-base changes, and the progressive respiratory depression which occurs during hypothermia tends to produce a falling pH and acidosis. For this reason, many clinicians have insisted on hyperventilation during hypothermia in order to combat the onset of respiratory acidosis.²⁰⁹ Others are not in accord with the belief that hyperventilation is a necessity, pointing out that the operative procedure may be a major factor: hyperventilation may be essential during cardiac surgery with total circulatory occlusion, but during hypothermia for neurosurgery, with a closed chest and occlusion of only a segment of the circulation, spontaneous respirations may be adequate to maintain normal pH.⁴⁰³ Finally, there are those who fear the production of respiratory alkalosis, thought also to be a factor in the precipitation of ventricular fibrillation, and yet admit the necessity of preventing respiratory acidosis for the same reason. These workers have compromised by employing hyperventilation with a mixture of 5 per cent carbon dioxide and 95 per cent oxygen to maintain a constant pH.²⁴⁸

Fluid Therapy. There is, as well, considerable disagreement as to the proper fluid therapy during hypothermia. The inability of the body to metabolize glucose during hypothermia⁴²³ may lead not only to hyperglycemia but also to disturbing alterations in blood protein and electrolyte concentrations.⁴²⁴ On this basis the administration of glucose to the hypothermic patient has been considered a hazard. On the other hand, there is evidence that glucose can increase the contractile force of heart muscle at lowered body temperatures;¹⁶⁴ therefore, the administration of glucose to the hypothermic patient has been considered a

necessity by some. The body also shows a decreased tolerance during hypothermia to the high concentrations of citrate, lactate, and phosphate, present in routinely banked blood²⁹⁸ and the use of freshly drawn, heparinized blood is advocated if transfusion is necessary.

Rewarming. A final consideration in the clinical conduct of hypothermia concerns the problem of rewarming. Slow rewarming following the termination of acute hypothermia is usually considered preferable to rapid rewarming, since the latter appears to increase the danger of "rewarming shock."⁵¹ The same methods employed for cooling are applicable to rewarming: surface, body cavity, or direct blood stream rewarming. Surface rewarming may be by the application of hot water bottles, by immersion in warm water, by circulating warm fluid through refrigerating mattresses or blankets, by blowing warm air in the cold air chamber, or by the use of diathermy coils wrapped around the body.^{42, 51} Body cavity rewarming can be accomplished by circulating warm water in the pleural or peritoneal cavities, in an intragastric balloon, or through a rectal tube.⁴⁴² Direct blood stream rewarming is easily accomplished by using warm fluid as the media surrounding the extracorporeal cooling coil or in the heat exchanger. The tendency is not to rewarm actively, but to allow spontaneous rewarming which will occur slowly even in the absence of shivering.⁴¹⁴ Indeed, shivering during rewarming should be prevented, since the occurrence of metabolic acidosis will enhance the danger of "rewarming shock,"⁴¹⁵ and chlorpromazine or analgesic drugs are employed to suppress shivering. An overshoot in body temperature may occur following rewarming, the reverse phenomenon to the drift described during cooling and probably due to a similar mechanism.

CLINICAL USES

The clinical usage of hypothermia has been predicated upon the almost linear reduction of metabolism, and therefore of oxygen utilization, that occurs as a result of lowered body temperature in the normothermic organism. Hypothermia thus has been employed to permit occlusion of all or part of the circulation during surgical interventions, or to control

catabolic activity in pathologic states during which hypoxic damage is either present or is a distinct possibility. It is perhaps a generalization to state that circulatory occlusion demands deeper degrees of hypothermia than that used for the control of catabolic activity, which often consists more of the prevention of hyperthermia than the production of true hypothermia. It is also a generalization to state that hypothermia for circulatory occlusion during operation is acute hypothermia, whereas hypothermia for the control of catabolic activity is chronic hypothermia that may be maintained for hours, days, or even weeks.

SURGICAL USES: The object of acute hypothermia is to permit circulatory occlusion during surgery by protecting the vital organs of the body for a limited period of time. The duration of this period of permissible circulatory occlusion will depend upon a multitude of factors: chief among them are the depth of hypothermia, the extent of circulatory occlusion, the magnitude and nature of the surgical intervention, and the patho-physiologic condition of the patient.

Cardiac Surgery. The use of acute hypothermia during operations upon the heart permits total circulatory occlusion by decreasing the danger of ischemia to the central nervous system and other vital tissues. Thus it becomes possible for cardiectomy to be performed and definitive operative procedures undertaken within relatively bloodless chambers of the open heart. Many congenital and acquired forms of cardiac defects have been attacked in this manner, including atrial septal defects of both the primum and secundum variety,^{25, 221, 221, 304, 308, 309} pulmonary stenosis of both the valvular and the infundibular types,^{25, 122, 221, 304, 308, 309} tetralogy of Fallot,^{122, 221, 304, 308} aortic stenosis,^{250, 307} mitral stenosis,⁹⁷ ventricular septal defects,²³ and tumors of the heart.⁸⁸ There are, however, definite limitations imposed upon the performance of open heart surgery under direct vision during hypothermia. The danger of ventricular fibrillation is great during this type of surgery, since precipitating factors of this complication include manipulations of the heart, the alterations in circulatory dynamics produced by such operations, and the profound degrees of acidosis which may be produced by total circulatory

occlusion. The hazard increases greatly as the body temperature is lowered below 28 C. in the adult or 26 C. in the child. The permissible period of circulatory arrest at these temperatures has been variously estimated as being from five minutes²⁵⁶ to fifteen minutes,²²¹ but probably lies in the range from six to eight minutes, with a maximum of ten minutes. These temperature and time limits indicate that only open cardiac procedures which can be completed in ten minutes or less should be done under hypothermia, and it is the consensus, at present, that such surgery would include operations for pulmonary valvular stenosis, pulmonary infundibular stenosis, atrial septal defect (secundum), atrial septal defect combined with pulmonary valvular stenosis (tetralogy of Fallot) and congenital aortic stenosis.

Cardiac procedures which demand more than ten minutes of intracardiac operating time, such as congenital lesions involving the ventricular septum, transposition of the great vessels, and total valvular replacement, demand more elaborate techniques than simple, acute hypothermia. The combination of hypothermia of a safely attainable degree and coronary perfusion of oxygenated blood has been employed in such procedures,¹⁷⁷ and will extend the duration of permissible circulatory occlusion to twelve or fifteen minutes.²⁸¹ The even more elaborate combination of hypothermia, low-flow extracorporeal circulation, and cardioplegia, will extend the permissible occlusion time to at least seventeen minutes⁶¹ and will permit repair of intra-auricular septal defects of the difficult ostium primum type, as well as the repair of intraventricular septal defects.²⁶⁹

Great Vessel Surgery. Occlusion of the thoracic aorta during normothermia can imperil the functional integrity of the spinal cord,^{20, 304, 314} the kidneys²⁸⁵ and the liver and other abdominal viscera.²¹² The permissible occlusion time, however, can be greatly extended by the use of hypothermia, although prolonged occlusion of the thoracic aorta may lead to cardiac failure even though hypothermia affords complete protection for the spinal cord, kidney, and viscera.¹⁷⁶ Hypothermia has been employed clinically for resection of the aortic arch,^{117, 181} the thoracic aorta^{186, 222} and for operations upon the distal aorta, or its

branches, which require occlusion of the aorta above the renal vessels or celiac axis.

Neurosurgery. The ability to occlude the circulation of the brain with some degree of safety by interruption of the flow through the carotid and vertebral arteries in the neck,²³³ or individual arteries within the cranium,²⁴¹ has been of outstanding value in neurosurgery. Both ventricular fibrillation,⁶⁰ and profound disturbances of hemodynamics following hypothermia,⁴⁰⁴ can occur, but are far less likely to be encountered than in cardiac surgery with total circulatory occlusion. Body temperatures of 30 C. provide protection for eight to twelve minutes of occlusion of the cerebral blood flow,²⁶⁶ but if longer periods are necessary multiple occlusions of shorter duration, with intermittent resumption of flow between occlusions, are safer than a single, prolonged occlusive episode.²⁵⁹

Hypothermia has found its greatest use in neurosurgery for the definitive operative attack upon ruptured intracranial, or "berry" aneurysms,^{3, 59, 115} but has also been of utility in other vascular lesions such as angiomas,¹⁹⁴ arterio-venous malformations,²⁵⁴ and aneurysms of the carotid vessels.^{55, 128}

The fact that hypothermia also reduces intracranial pressure²⁴⁴ has led to its use without circulatory occlusion to provide better operative exposure and to diminish trauma during the excision of cerebral tumors,^{214, 264} such as meningiomas,²⁸⁷ glioblastomas,²⁸⁷ and cranio-pharyngiomas.²¹⁴ It must be emphasized, however, that cerebrospinal fluid pressure is not automatically reduced by hypothermia, if shivering, hypoxia, or hypertension are allowed to occur.²⁴⁵ This fact has led to the intentional combination of the hypothermic and hypotensive techniques¹²⁹ to enhance exposure by further decreasing intracranial pressure²⁵⁷ as well as to decrease bleeding.^{81, 264} It is possible that the addition of hypothermia does increase the safety of the hypotensive techniques as has been claimed,¹²⁵ but it is probable that induced hypotension increases the risk in hypothermia. It is likely that a sudden hypotension will embarrass the coronary circulation and jeopardize the myocardium, in view of the reduced coronary flow already present during the hypothermic state.⁶⁰

Cerebrospinal fluid pressure may be in-

creased following craniotomy under hypothermia,²⁴⁶ and for this reason not only is active rewarming often avoided, but moderate or light hypothermia actually continued into the postoperative period to prevent cerebral edema, hyperpyrexia, and postoperative coma.²¹⁴

General Surgery. The deleterious effects of temporary ischemia to the liver,^{40, 174, 222} kidney,¹⁸⁷ and intestines²⁷¹ can be ameliorated by hypothermia, and the technique has been of value in partial hepatectomy,²¹⁰ excision of renal tumor,¹⁸⁷ and the performance of portal caval shunt.⁵³

Hypothermia also has been applied to a variety of other surgical procedures to minimize the stress¹⁵³ of extensive dissections^{9, 28} or to lower metabolism and combat hyperpyrexia in toxic states⁴⁴ or "poor-risk" patients.^{8, 62} The beneficial effects possible in the latter group of patients, however, must be weighed against the fact that they withstand blood loss poorly²⁸⁹ and are prone to develop hypovolemia, shock, and cardiac failure during the rewarming period.¹³⁷

THERAPEUTIC USES: Although total body hypothermia was employed a decade ago primarily as an adjunct to operative intervention, the predominant use of hypothermia today is not to facilitate surgery but as a therapeutic measure to prevent hypoxic damage, particularly to the brain, and to control catabolic activity in a variety of pathological conditions. For these purposes, hypothermia is generally light in degree or may merely consist of the prevention of hyperthermia. However, hypothermia is also generally maintained for considerable periods of time in such instances quite in contrast to the duration of acute hypothermia employed for operative procedures. It is worth pointing out that the physiological changes during chronic hypothermia warrant further elucidation, since they are not necessarily the same as those seen during short-term hypothermia.¹⁵⁷

Hyperpyrexia. The use of cooling to combat fever is probably as old as the practice of medicine itself, but simple sponging or fanning of the surface of the body are often inadequate for this purpose and may require supplementation with the techniques—or modification of the techniques—of total body hypothermia.

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Surface cooling, produced by a refrigerating mattress or blanket combined with the use of chlorpromazine to combat shivering and produce vasodilation,²¹⁹ is the most popular method, and the body temperature is reduced to only 33–35 C.²²⁵ Hypothermia of this type has been employed with laudable results in critically ill febrile patients with encephalitis,^{131, 219} poliomyelitis,²⁷⁷ pneumonia,²³⁵ and other infections,²¹⁷ as well as in thyrotoxicosis,^{62, 211} eclampsia,²⁶³ and heat stroke. In these instances, of course, the therapy is directed merely at the hyperpyrexia and not at the underlying disease process, but there is some experimental evidence to indicate that, in certain forms of bacterial infection at least, hypothermia may enhance the antibacterial defenses of the organism,¹³⁶ possibly by a decrease in the rate of bacterial multiplication at lower temperatures.^{23, 422} Following the discontinuance of hypothermia, clinical exacerbation infection has been noted in some instances.

Cerebral Injury. Hypothermia is capable of protecting the brain in head injuries by limiting the response to trauma,³⁴³ and a major use of hypothermia has been for the treatment of cerebral injury.^{273, 363} The technique has generally consisted of surface cooling and moderate doses of chlorpromazine to induce a hypothermia of 34–30 C. This usage has been expanded to include not only head injuries,^{243, 261} but also spontaneous cerebral hemorrhage,²⁰⁸ postoperative cerebral edema,³⁶⁵ and other forms of cerebral ischemia which lead to hyperpyrexia with tonic fits superimposed on the decerebrate rigidity. Cooling is maintained for prolonged periods of time in these instances (in one patient intermittently for more than five months³²¹), and any recurrence of neurological signs during the warming period is indication for recooling.

Cardiac Arrest. A most important extension of this use of hypothermia in cerebral injury is to prevent brain damage from ischemia following cardiac arrest. It is quite conceivable that this may become one of the major indications for the method in relation to anesthesia. Injury to the central nervous system following cardiac arrest is caused by anoxia. The principal effects of the latter are direct injury to nerve cells and the appearance of cerebral swelling which, by increasing intracranial pres-

sure, leads to a vicious cycle of further anoxia followed by further vascular injury and further swelling. Hypothermia will protect the brain against such anoxic injury and also reduce intracranial pressure by reducing brain volume, and if applied to patients exhibiting signs of severe central nervous damage following successful cardiac massage, can aid in promoting either complete recovery or at least in minimizing the residual neurologic deficit.⁴¹⁶

Asphyxia Neonatorum. Results with experimental asphyxia in newborn laboratory animals have demonstrated that a 10 degree C. reduction in body temperature will provide complete protection against an asphyxial exposure which is lethal for litter-mate controls.²⁷⁶ Hypothermia (22 C.) can also maintain the apneic nonviable premature human fetus alive for hours.²⁷⁵ Hypothermia produced in neonatal asphyxia pallida by merely placing the asphyxiated infant in running cold (10 C.) tap water has effected spontaneous respirations in from fourteen to seventy-nine minutes after birth, at body temperatures ranging from 34–23 C., following failure of all other resuscitative attempts.⁴¹⁵ All the infants so resuscitated have had normal acoustic acuity when tested during the first few days of life, in distinct contrast to records obtained from other babies who had recovered from severe asphyxia with or without neurologic symptoms. It would appear from this study that hypothermia may become a technique of outstanding utility in the resuscitation of the badly asphyxiated newborn.

Hematemesis. The secretory activity of the gastrointestinal tract is markedly reduced by hypothermia.³⁵⁴ Local gastric cooling by an intragastric balloon to temperatures of 17–20 C. will depress gastric secretion substantially without evidence of injury to the gastric mucosa.⁴¹¹ This technique has been employed clinically to control massive hematemesis of acid-peptic origin, and it is considered by its protagonists to be a measure of value in readying patients with active gastric hemorrhage for operation by inhibiting peptic activity, arresting hemorrhage, and permitting restoration of a fairly normal blood volume.

Experimental Applications to Clinical Problems. Laboratory investigations into the application of hypothermia to a number of clinical

problems are of sufficient possible future interest to warrant mention. Some workers have been attracted by the ability of hypothermia to prevent the response to stress, and to lower metabolic activity, in relation to the therapy of shock state. They have concluded that lowering the body temperature after the onset of an otherwise irreversible shock due to hemorrhage exerts a significant therapeutic effect.^{201, 217} Most of these studies of hemorrhagic shock have been performed with the Fine modification of the Wiggers method of controlled hemorrhagic hypotension,^{200, 210} however; and it has been pointed out that this technique studies artificially controlled hypotension but not hemorrhage *per se*.¹¹⁸ When a single acute hemorrhage is employed to produce shock experimentally, hypothermia exerts a decidedly deleterious effect.¹²¹ Studies of the effect of hypothermia on traumatic shock have led to the similar conclusion that there is no rationale for its use in established shock or in the prevention of shock.²²⁴

There has also been considerable interest in hypothermia as an adjuvant to therapy in burns, since the metabolic rate is definitely lowered, and water, electrolytes and plasma accumulations are diminished in the burned areas;²⁰⁷ but there is no clear-cut evidence that cooling can either prevent development of shock or effect prolongation of life following extensive burns.

The possibility of employing hypothermia in the therapy of coronary disease has intrigued some workers. The primary aim of treatment in acute coronary occlusion with myocardial infarction is to reduce heart (and body) work and oxygen consumption, and since these are both effects produced by hypothermia, it has seemed reasonable to expect cooling to be of benefit. In point of fact, however, several studies of the use of hypothermia in experimentally produced coronary occlusion have demonstrated conclusively that hypothermia is not only without benefit, but even increases the mortality rate considerably in comparison with control animals subjected to an identical artificially-produced coronary occlusion.^{114, 242, 278}

Ligation of a major branch of the coronary arterial system in a laboratory animal is scarcely comparable to occlusive coronary disease in the human patient, but these studies

have led one observer to comment that body cooling has no place in the treatment of acute coronary arterial occlusion and that, further, the use of hypothermia as an ancillary method in "poor-risk" patients is fraught with danger if coronary arterial insufficiency already exists, whether from organic changes in the coronary arterial tree or from diminished filling due to hemorrhage or shock.²⁷⁸

COMPLICATIONS

The production of the hypothermic state bears with it all the hazards ordinarily associated with anesthesia, surgery, and the pathophysiologic conditions of the patient in whom hypothermia is being induced, but in addition it may be complicated by specific hazards induced by hypothermia itself. It must be emphasized, however, that these several factors contributing to the production of complications are not entirely separable: complications, for instance, that are due to a specific surgical manipulation, or the particular disease condition suffered by the patient, might not have been precipitated in the absence of hypothermia. Similarly, they also might not have been precipitated by hypothermia itself in the absence of that specific surgical manipulation or that particular disease condition suffered by the patient. As an example, intentional circulatory arrest for ten minutes induced in dogs during hypothermia results in a severe derangement of hepatic function and structure which is not seen in control dogs cooled to the same temperature without circulatory arrest.⁶¹

Ventricular Fibrillation. The most dramatic and certainly the most serious complication of hypothermia has been ventricular fibrillation, and a tremendous amount of effort has been expended in an attempt to elucidate the factor(s) which induce this arrhythmia. Without deprecating either the seriousness of this complication or the danger of its occurrence, it should be stressed that in light or moderate hypothermia that is not employed for cardiac surgery, the risk of fibrillation is far less than might be expected from the amount of publicity that has been accorded this arrhythmia. For although innumerable factors have been implicated in the production of ventricular fibrillation during hypothermia,²⁴ without ques-

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tion the major causes have been: (1) a level of body temperature below 28–26 C., (2) total circulatory occlusion for 10 or more minutes, and (3) cardiectomy,²⁹⁰ particularly left ventriculotomy. These conditions set the background for the development of accelerating discharges from ectopic centers in the ventricle, and such ectopic foci occur most easily in the diseased heart³³³—which compounds the problem in many patients undergoing cardiac surgery during hypothermia. Other factors may be contributory to the development of ventricular ectopic discharges: (1) disturbed myocardial calcium/potassium balance, (2) changes in blood pH, (3) increased activity of cardiac sympathetics, and (4) increased amounts of circulating catechol amines.

One of the factors involved in the pronounced decrease in fibrillary threshold during hypothermia^{103, 311} may well be an ionic imbalance of cardiac muscle, but there is disagreement as to the exact changes that occur in the concentrations of myocardial electrolytes. Potassium has been variously reported as increased,²⁷⁸ unchanged,²⁸² or decreased¹⁰⁶ in cardiac muscle during hypothermia, but the results depend upon the experimental procedure employed, the existence of acidosis or alkalosis, and whether or not the heart eventually went into fibrillation. The ion apparently does leave the myocardial cell prior to hypothermic fibrillation,²⁶⁹ however; and the onset of fibrillation therefore may be due to an altered calcium/potassium balance, inasmuch as cardiac muscle gains calcium,¹⁴ which has been shown to precipitate ventricular fibrillation in the hypothermic state.¹⁷⁸

Studies of plasma concentrations of these electrolytes are even more inconsistent, and may show a decrease,^{33, 298, 382, 400} an increase,¹²⁸ or no change¹⁵⁹ in potassium; and either no change¹⁵⁹ or a slight increase in calcium.^{128, 380} The assumption has been that a rise of the serum calcium/potassium ratio would produce a similar change within the myocardium, and thus contribute to the onset of fibrillation.

Plasma pH appears to be definitely related to ventricular fibrillation and the greatest danger appears to be from a sudden shift of pH, since either acidosis or alkalosis can be associ-

ated with fibrillation. It has been hypothesized that a change in pH may be correlated with a change in the potassium concentration, but the actual mechanisms involved are by no means clear.

There is considerable evidence that increased sympathetic activity and decreased vagal tone are important factors in the occurrence of this serious arrhythmia. Fibrillation in hypothermic animals subjected to inflow occlusion and right ventriculotomy can be prevented by bilateral sympathetic denervation of the heart,²⁷⁷ high spinal block,²⁶⁵ sympathetic ganglionic blocking agent (Arfonad),³³⁴ vagal stimulation,³³⁰ or block of the sino-aortic node with a local anesthetic agent.^{321, 329, 330}

Catechol amines may be related in similar fashion to ventricular fibrillation, since it is known that epinephrine is a potent fibrillatory agent in hypothermia as well as during normothermia³⁹ and there is an increase in the level of circulating epinephrine and norepinephrine in the hypothermic dog.²⁴ It may be that there is an appreciable accumulation of catechol amines in the inferior vena caval blood during total circulatory occlusion as a consequence of sino-aortic reflexes, and this could explain the high incidence of ventricular fibrillation which occurs soon after the release of occlusion. It is worth noting that physiological situations producing acidosis may also lead to release of catechol amines, which might be a factor in the relationship of low blood pH to ventricular fibrillation.

The relationship of myocardial hypoxia to ventricular fibrillation is well known, and undoubtedly important in cardiac surgery during hypothermia with circulatory occlusion, as indicated by the protective effect of coronary perfusion with oxygenated blood during the period of occlusion.^{122, 375} The role of hypoxia in the production of ventricular fibrillation during hypothermia not associated with cardiac surgery is probably not large, for although it has been postulated that the displacement of the oxygen dissociation curve to the left during hypothermia might induce hypoxia, coronary arterio-venous differences remain unchanged at temperatures as low as 20 C.¹⁰⁴ There seems little doubt that a reduction in coronary flow occurs during hypothermia,³¹

^{123, 220, 252} but there is also abundant evidence that the oxygen demand of the heart is greatly reduced by the low myocardial temperature, the reduced cardiac output, decreased arterial pressure, and the bradycardia, and that these factors reduce the demand for oxygen so much that the curtailed coronary flow presumably remains adequate for the requirements of the myocardium.^{21, 22, 29, 191, 220, 210} The situation is quite different, as suggested above, in cardiac surgery with inflow occlusion under hypothermia: in such instances, the ventricles are subjected to diffuse ischemia which may well contribute to the onset of ventricular fibrillation which may develop after occlusion.

The prevention of ventricular fibrillation during hypothermia has necessarily been a consuming concern, and a large number of pharmacologic agents known or suspected to have antifibrillatory activity have been explored under conditions of hypothermia,²²⁶ including acetylcholine,²⁷ neostigmine (Prostigmine),²⁷⁸ procainamide (Pronestyl),¹⁰⁹ 2-diethylaminoethylisonicotinamide (Ambonestyl),^{107, 239} aminoacetic acid (glycine),^{31, 32} diphenylhydantoin (Dilantin),¹⁰⁹ β -(2 biphenyloxy)-ethyl-diethylamine (Dacorene),¹⁰⁹ trimethaphen (Arfonad),³⁷⁴ procaine,³²¹ quinidine,¹⁷⁰ ouabain,¹⁸ piperidolate (Dactil),¹⁸³ and mephenteramine (Wyamine).¹⁰² Some of these drugs look promising in the laboratory,^{24, 278} but it cannot be said that many of them have gained wide clinical usage.

Probably far more important than pharmacologic agents in the prevention of ventricular fibrillation is avoidance of those factors known to produce this arrhythmia. Cardiectomy through the left ventricle may be dangerous, since the development of ectopic foci in the ventricles, coupled with prolongation and variation in the relative refractory period produced by lowered temperature,¹⁵ is of fundamental importance in the production of fibrillation. Temperatures in the fibrillary range (below 28 C.) should be avoided, since the fibrillary threshold of the heart at these temperatures is such that fibrillation can occur spontaneously without stimulation by mechanical manipulation. Considerable effort has been expended to prevent a fall in blood pH, and most workers employ hyperventilation for this pur-

pose.⁴⁰⁰ Some, however, have added carbon dioxide to the inhaled mixture employed in hyperventilation, on the basis that a respiratory alkalosis will cause as great a shift in blood pH, and be just as dangerous, as acidosis.²⁹² One group has deliberately produced acidosis,¹³⁰ on the basis that defibrillation is accomplished most easily at a low blood pH. Shivering should be prevented, as it can produce both acidosis and a rise in the serum potassium level,¹²⁸ which may disturb the myocardial calcium-potassium ratio and contribute to the precipitation of fibrillation.

The treatment of hypothermic fibrillation has been a frustrating problem, and no ready solution exists to the irreversibility of this arrhythmia in the hypothermic state.²⁸⁸ The standard methods of defibrillation, which consist of cardiac massage, and if necessary the use of adrenaline, to improve the tone of the heart muscle, followed by electrical defibrillation,⁶⁶ may be difficult to accomplish or only momentarily effective,²²⁷ with subsequent return of fibrillation. Fortunately, considerable protection for the brain is afforded by the existence of the hypothermic state,²⁷² but such protection is limited in duration. Considerable investigation of ancillary measures that will facilitate defibrillation has therefore been undertaken, and laboratory results indicate that some of these techniques may find clinical utility. Prostigmine has antifibrillatory activity in the hypothermic dog, and when ventricular fibrillation occurs in the unprotected animal, coronary perfusion of prostigmine will allow conversion of the arrhythmia to normal rhythm by cardiac massage and electric shock.²¹⁹ Potassium, employed to produce intentional cardioplegia, has been successful in stopping ventricular fibrillation in both normothermic and hypothermic dogs, but the diastolic arrest which follows the administration of potassium chloride is extremely difficult to overcome and ventricular fibrillation recurs in a sizable proportion of animals.²¹¹ Hearts which have been defibrillated by the administration of potassium chloride into the left ventricle can be resuscitated from cardiac standstill successfully, however, by the intracardiac injection of sodium lactate followed by equal amounts of Ringer's lactate combined

with cardiac massage,²⁵⁷ or by the administration of hypertonic glucose^{30, 270} or fructose.²⁹⁷ The beneficial effect of these hypertonic solutions appears to be related to maintenance of normal concentration of the circulating potassium ion in the extracellular fluid and plasma, and deposition of potassium and glycogen in the myocardium.²⁹⁷ Alternative methods of resuscitation of the potassium-arrested heart have been the perfusion of cold blood¹¹¹ or tetraethylammonium chloride⁸² into the coronary arteries to prevent the usual high incidence of recurrence of ventricular fibrillation.

Rewarming Shock. A major hazard associated with the immediate posthypothermic period consists of the development of hypotension^{149, 192} and acute circulatory collapse that is characterized by tachycardia, diminished cardiac output, and inadequate respirations.^{51, 145} The syndrome, which is particularly prone to occur during rapid rewarming,¹⁴⁵ appears to be due to acidosis; and the fact that both the pH and the carbon dioxide combining power of the blood are decreased indicates that there is a predominantly metabolic element in the acidosis.⁴¹⁰ For this reason, rewarming shock often results from shivering¹⁴⁴ or following total circulatory occlusion,⁶⁸ which of itself produces serious venous congestion leading to gross acidosis and lactic acidemia.²⁹¹ The prevention of this syndrome therefore is based upon the maintenance of a normal blood pH by the prevention of both shivering and vasoconstriction, continuation of adequate ventilation without the production of respiratory alkalosis, and slow rewarming.¹⁴⁴

Bleeding Tendency. The effects of hypothermia upon the coagulation of blood are of real clinical importance, since disturbance of the clotting mechanism has been one of the major causes of death in surgical interventions performed under hypothermia,²⁹³ but the precise nature of this bleeding tendency is poorly understood. It may be related to the development of a fibrinolytic tendency during total circulatory occlusion,⁴⁰⁹ since it is not prevalent in simple hypothermia alone.⁷² On the other hand, it may be related to the development of thrombocytopenia,¹⁹⁰ and the administration of small doses of heparin prior to cooling has been advocated as a method to minimize thrombocytopenia and eliminate

bleeding tendencies.⁴¹³ It is possible that some instances of reactionary hemorrhage which have been attributed to a defect in coagulation actually may have been due to a failure to ligate all bleeding points when the surgical wound has been closed before rewarming and during hypothermic hypotension.

Tissue Injury. The techniques of surface cooling can produce injury to the skin, the subcutaneous tissues, or the peripheral nerves; and while such lesions are seldom if ever lethal, they do represent very real complications of this form of cooling. Cold skin is particularly liable to injury by heat, and skin burns have resulted from the warm water mattress, hot water bottles, heat cradles, and following diathermy.^{86, 180, 398} Usually such burns are of second degree and small in size.

A diffuse firmness and solidification of the subcutaneous tissues of the thighs and the panniculus of the abdomen, associated with larger hard indurated lumps, has been described in infants following hypothermia.^{54, 55} The pathogenesis of this lesion appears to be based upon the fact that the fat of young children contains a relatively low percentage of certain fatty acids, and as a consequence has a relatively high melting point in comparison with the fat of the adult; thus, solidification can occur in infant fat at temperatures far above those necessary to produce solidification in adult fat.² Subcutaneous fat necrosis has progressed to actual tissue slough in some of these patients.

The most disturbing of these local injuries resulting from surface cooling has been postoperative peripheral nerve dysfunction in the extremities. These neuropathies have involved both sensory and motor elements; and while in some instances the syndrome appeared to fit a definite pattern, such as peroneal or lower brachial plexus palsy, in other it has been bizarre. The exact cause of these lesions has not been determined, but it has been postulated that the hypothermic nerve may be prone to pressure injury.³⁹³

Cerebral Ischemia. Actual brain damage from the effects of cold *per se* does not occur at the temperatures of moderate hypothermia which are employed clinically,³⁰⁵ but there is a real danger to the brain because of the hazard of cerebral ischemia following intentional cir-

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culatory occlusion.³⁵⁰ It is ironical that this disastrous complication should occur when hypothermia is employed specifically to prevent such pathology, and would seem to indicate either that the permissible occlusion times have been overestimated³⁵² or that these limits have been exceeded in certain instances.

Organ Damage. There is a widespread impression that hypothermia can effect metabolic depression without effecting alteration of morphologic structure. The statement has been made that in hypothermia above 20 C. no specific cellular pathology occurs within periods of several hours, and that, further, the temperature range free of organic disturbances may extend much lower.³⁵² The experimental evidence in regard to organ damage, however, while not entirely clear, nevertheless does not support this thesis. Few would disagree with the contention that hypothermia to low temperature levels can be tolerated by individual organs⁴¹² or even, as will be seen, by the entire organism, with restoration of function on rewarming. The question of morphological change, and particularly cellular damage, however, is something else. Certainly the combination of hypothermia total circulatory occlusion, and cardiac surgery, can produce pathologic cardiac alterations consisting of localized fibrinous pericarditis and necrotic myocardial changes.³⁵⁶ These findings might be anticipated in view of the trauma to the heart involved in such maneuvers. Much more surprising is the fact that multiple foci of necrotic muscle fibers can be produced by moderate hypothermia alone, and that these distinct areas of necrosis show the various stages of organization known to occur in the development and healing of experimental myocardial infarctions.³⁵⁵ It has been suggested that these focal disturbances in the myocardial blood supply may contribute to the conduction disturbances encountered during hypothermia, and may even bear a relationship to the ectopic foci known to develop in the cold heart.

More drastic changes have been demonstrated at the cellular level by histochemical techniques (following cooling to body temperature levels that are not far beyond the point generally regarded as ideal for surgery) including accumulation of fat in the liver, kid-

ney, and adrenal glands; depletion of glycogen in the liver; and vacuolization of the granular cells of the zona reticularis of the adrenal cortex.³⁵⁸ Other investigations undertaken to confirm these findings, however, have failed to reveal alterations in the fat content of the adrenals, kidneys, and liver, or significant changes in the succinic dehydrogenase, cytochrome oxidase and alkaline phosphatase activity, in the heart, liver, or kidneys, even in hypothermia maintained at lower temperatures (18–20 C.) and for longer periods of time (two to twenty-three hours).³⁵⁸ It has been concluded that hypothermia is not attended by specific pathologic alterations which might be interpreted as resulting from anoxia, and that such changes as have been noted are in no way correlated with survival.¹⁵³

It seems obvious that the conflicting evidence on this important question of organ damage necessitates further work on the subject, for if investigation is carried one step further to include more sophisticated biochemical analyses, shifts in the temperature kinetics of enzyme systems can be demonstrated during hypothermia,³⁵⁴ and it becomes essential to know whether such shifts are totally reversible on rewarming or represent true damage as a result of cold.

PRESENT STATUS

In the short span of the decade that has seen major clinical utilization of the techniques of total body hypothermia, vast changes have occurred in the applications of this modality. The use of hypothermia for cardiac surgery has been, first, championed; then, abandoned in favor of extracorporeal circulation in certain instances; and finally, now, is being combined with the latter technique to provide a method with greater promise than either technique alone. The use of hypothermia for neurosurgery, particularly in ligation of intracranial aneurysms and excision of vascular tumors, was first displaced the techniques of "controlled hypotension," and now is itself being displaced in some clinics by the use of urea and hyper-ventilation. The therapeutic uses of chronic hypothermia to control catabolic activity in pathologic states and to combat the deleterious effects of hyperthermia, barely mentioned as an application ten years ago, have become far

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more important and widespread in clinical usage than acute hypothermia for surgery. Hypothermia, in short, has been a field of extremely rapid change, and there is no reason to believe that there will not be even more far-reaching changes in the future—on the contrary, there seems every good reason to believe that further changes are not only inevitable, but are in fact already taking place with the advent of techniques for profound hypothermia.

It has long been known that hibernating mammals (ground squirrel, hedgehog, hamster, bat) can survive artificial cooling which lowers the deep body temperature to nearly 0 C. and that they recover spontaneously in a warm environment; but it has also been thought that death is inevitable in homeotherms cooled to 10–19 C., inasmuch as there will be cessation of both respiratory and cardiac activity (in contrast to hibernators, who continue a slow heart beat and breathing even at these low temperatures). The demonstration that, by using special methods of cooling and rewarming, rats may be full revived after their rectal temperatures have been lowered as far as 1 C. has opened up an entirely new area in hypothermia. The animals were cooled in two stages, first to 20 C. in small containers so that they were exposed to a progressive fall in oxygen tension and a rise in carbon dioxide tension, and then by covering them with crushed ice, to colonic temperatures of 1 C. Respirations ceased at about 9 C. and heart beat at about 6 C. Revival could not be accomplished by merely rewarming the body and carrying out artificial respiration; but if the circulation was first re-established by applying heat locally to the cardiac area, combined with artificial respiration, anoxia during rewarming was avoided and recovery was possible.¹²

These investigations have rearoused interest in the possibilities of profound hypothermia, and cats have been successfully cooled to body temperatures below 15 C. using this method of hypercapnia and hypoxia.²⁸ The rate of body cooling, and the oxygen and carbon dioxide concentrations, are critical parameters in this technique, however, which are extremely difficult to control in an animal as large as the cat, and other methods for the production of profound hypothermia are under current investigation. Surface cooling to body tempera-

tures between 10 C. and 0 C., with successful resuscitation, has been achieved by refrigerating blanket and artificial ventilation with 5 per cent carbon dioxide–95 per cent oxygen in the rat,²² the dog,²⁹ the monkey²³ and even in man.²⁶

But perhaps the most promising approach to profound hypothermia with cessation of heart beat is to be found in the combination of hypothermia and extracorporeal circulation with pump oxygenator.¹⁶⁹ The inclusion of a heat exchanger in the extracorporeal circuit will permit rather precise control of cooling and rewarming, which is essential to the production of asystole and subsequent restoration of normal rhythm without the development of fibrillation.²²⁹ The production of profound hypothermia by extracorporeal circulation has other notable advantages, chief amongst which is the fact that the tremendous reduction of the organism's total oxygen requirement avoids the need for a heart-lung machine capable of delivering high outputs of oxygenated blood and permits the use of a simple pump oxygenator that requires much less donor blood to prime, needs a far lower dose of heparin to prevent clotting within the circuit, and minimizes the damage to the formed elements in the blood itself.¹⁷¹ Oxygenation exceeds by far the oxygen requirement during extreme hypothermia, and a degree of oxygenation can be achieved in which the arterio-venous oxygen difference is less than one-half volume per cent.¹⁷³ Cardiac arrest of one hour's duration during hypothermia at 0 C. has been achieved in dogs with this technique followed by survival,¹⁶⁸ and open cardiectomy of the left heart has been performed at temperatures below 10 C. in the dog without the occurrence of anoxia or ventricular fibrillation.¹⁷⁰ The technique has been successfully employed for operation on a tetralogy of Fallot at an esophageal temperature of 9.3 C. to produce cardiac standstill without the use of a cardioplegic agent, and the patient made an uncomplicated recovery.¹²⁵

A further modification omits the artificial oxygenator by utilizing the patient's own lungs for their normal function of oxygenation, but requires two blood pumps (one to bypass each ventricle) and therefore two extracorporeal circuits.^{124, 373} This method has been

used in three children operated upon during hypothermia to 15 C. with periods of cardiac arrest up to a forty-five minutes during the repair of ventricular defects. Ventricular fibrillation did not occur, hemolysis was negligible, there were no significant biochemical changes, and the two survivors showed no evidence of neurological or other damage.¹²³

Cooling to low levels of body temperature by these extracorporeal techniques produces temperature gradients that are in many respects the reverse of those seen in surface cooling, since the core of the body cools first and the shell, or surface, later. The temperature of the blood falls immediately, of course, followed by the temperature of the heart and esophagus. The temperatures of the liver and kidneys fall more slowly, and the brain and colonic temperatures lag still farther behind. Slowest of all to cool are the limb muscles.²⁷²

Cardiac action ceases at 13–18 C. (hepatic temperature, selected as the most satisfactory index of cooling), and reappears on rewarming at 14–18 C. Ventricular fibrillation, when it does occur, is easily treated by "cold conversion" (i.e., recooling to asystole). Electrical waves are recordable in the heart even at temperatures as low as 5 C., but electroencephalographic waves disappear at 12–15 C. A considerable metabolic acidosis develops during profound hypothermia; plasma potassium falls slightly; and plasma sodium remains unchanged. There is complete suppression of urinary output during cooling, circulatory arrest, and the early rewarming period, with return of urine formation during the later stages of rewarming.²³⁰

These attainments of profound hypothermia are exciting developments, not merely for cardiac surgery, but as well for the innumerable other vistas opened up in relation to such problems as organ transplantation, reconstructive surgery, and the attenuation of fulminating disease processes. Thorough realization of these potentials, however, will require that "haste" be made slowly. Already the use of profound hypothermia with extracorporeal circulation has brought such a rapid and vigorous advance of open-heart surgery that successful clinical experiences have far out-distanced fundamental observations as to the nature of this changed physiological state. A number of problems on

which there is little or no information at the present time have been raised by lowering body temperature to these profound levels. What, for instance, is the extent of the increase in blood viscosity, and what is the effect of this increase in blood viscosity on capillary flow? What is the effect on enzyme activity, and is the effect completely reversible on rewarming?

Several years ago, in reviewing the progress in hypothermia, Brooks and Hoffman made the following comments as to the urgent need for additional physiological investigations: "It should be stated, without implied criticism of those who have made contribution to this field, that fuller studies are needed. Additional multiple recordings and analyses are required before conclusions can be drawn about many matters. . . . Despite the vast amount of work already done, little is as yet known concerning the action of hypothermia. It is abundantly evident, however, that unless future experiments are well conceived, carefully done, and more extensive, they will add little to our present knowledge. . . . It is felt that the individual cell and specific reactions must be studied more thoroughly; that the action of hypothermia on membrane function and on the contractile process should be determined; and that a more extensive study than has yet been attempted of the functional changes in the intact heart during hypothermia must be undertaken by groups qualified and equipped to study many aspects of physiology."⁷²

These comments have lost none of their validity with the advent of profound hypothermia.

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ELECTROHYSTEROGRAPHY When oxytocin was administered to pregnant patients the electrohysterogram produced was indistinguishable from that of normal labor. When demerol, 100 mg., was administered for analgesia, labor was slowed for one hour and a marked change appeared in the electrical pattern. (*Larks, S. D., and others: Effects of Oxytocic and Analgesic Drugs on Human Electrohysterogram, Obst. & Gynec.* 13: 405 (April) 1959.)

SPHYGMOMANOMETER Arterial blood pressure appears to have been less frequently measured in the first few days after birth than

at any other period of life; principally because of the lack of method of measuring the blood pressure, which is sufficiently convenient, accurate and generally accepted. A sphygmomanometer is described which overcomes these difficulties. This apparatus combined the generally accepted Riva-Rocci method with pulse indicator. Blood pressure is then determined not by auscultation but by return of the radial pulse with deflation of the cuff. Demonstrative blood pressures are presented. (*Ashworth, A. M., Neligan, G. A., and Rogers, P. E.: Sphygmomanometer for Newborn, Lancet* 1: 801 (April 18) 1959.)