

### Ventricular Tachycardia with Gallamine and Cyclopropane Anesthesia

*To the Editor.*—I should like to call to the attention of other anesthesiologists the possibility of ventricular tachycardia occurring when gallamine is used with cyclopropane anesthesia.

Recently, several reports have been published showing similar adverse effects when belladonna alkaloids are used with cyclopropane. Since gallamine, in some centers, has been used as a muscle relaxant of choice when cyclopropane is being administered, and since gallamine does have a vagolytic property, a study of the usage of this combination of drugs is being undertaken at University of California Medical Center, Los Angeles.

During the first case study, both ECG and EEG monitors were attached to the patient. Anesthesia was stabilized at a depth causing burst suppression of less than three-seconds

duration. The ECG revealed normal sinus rhythm. The ventilation was controlled and, while not measured, was thought to have been more than adequate. One hundred milligrams of gallamine was given intravenously. Within 20 seconds of injection ventricular tachycardia occurred and persisted intermittently for four minutes. The heart rate rose from 60 to 140 beats per minute and the systolic blood pressure fell from 160 to 110 mm. of mercury.

Further studies are planned, but until the final report can be evaluated, a word of caution is given to others who have been using this combination of drugs.

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### Hazard of Placing Infants Anesthetized with Ether in Incubators

*To the Editor.*—Recently, a fact of importance in clinical anesthesia was brought to my attention, the hazard of placing infants anesthetized with ether in incubators (J. A. M. A. 173: 651, 1960). Since I have been in anesthesia for several years and was unaware of this hazard, perhaps it would be well to bring

it to the attention of other readers of ANESTHESIOLOGY who may not be aware of this danger. I do not recall having seen this fact mentioned in the JOURNAL.

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