await further investigation of the local fate of norepinephrine in the presence of cyclopropane. However, the results permit the speculation that the reported increase in plasma concentration of catecholamines with cyclopropane anesthesia is due, in part, to inhibition of catecholamine biotransformation.

The assistance of A. Schenk and J. Edington is acknowledged.

References

1. Price, H. L., Luri, A. A., Black, G. W., Seehzer, P. H., Linde, H. W., and Price, M. L.: Modification by general anesthetics (cyclopropane and halothane) of circulatory and sympathoadrenal responses to respiratory acidosis, Ann. Surg. 152: 1071, 1960.
2. Price, H. L., Linde, H. W., Jones, R. E., Black, G. W., and Price, M. L.: Sympathoadrenal responses to general anesthesia in man and their relation to hemodynamics, ANESTHESIOLOGY 20: 563, 1959.
3. Axelrod, J.: The Clinical Chemistry of Monoamines. Amsterdam, Elsevier, 1963, p. 5.
4. Axelrod, J., and Tomchick, R.: Enzymatic o-methylation of epinephrine and other catechols, J. Biol. Chem. 233: 702, 1958.
5. Pisano, J. J.: A simple analysis for norepinephrine and metanephrine in urine, Clin. Chem. Acta 5: 406, 1960.
6. Snedecor, C. W.: Statistical Methods, ed. 5. Ames, Iowa, Ames Iowa State College Press, 1956, p. 237.
7. Price, H. L., Cook, W. A., Jr., Deutsch, S., Linde, H. W., Mishalave, R. D., and Morse, H. T.: Hemodynamic and central nervous actions of cyclopropane in the dog, ANESTHESIOLOGY 24: 770, 1963.
8. Ngai, S. H., and Bolme, P.: Effects of anesthetics on circulatory regulatory mechanisms in the dog, J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther. 153: 495, 1966.
9. Markee, S., Wang, H. H., and Wang, S. C.: Effects of cyclopropane on the central vasomotor mechanism of the dog, ANESTHESIOLOGY 27: 742, 1966.
10. Millar, R. A., and Biscoe, T. J.: Preganglionic sympathetic activity and the effects of anesthetics, Brit. J. Anaesth. 37: 804, 1965.
11. Rosell, S., Kopin, I. J., and Axelrod, J.: Fate of H³-noradrenaline in skeletal muscle before and following sympathetic stimulation, Amer. J. Physiol. 205: 317, 1963.
12. Harrison, D. C., and Chidsey, C. A.: Cardioaccelerator nerve stimulation and pronethalol on metabolism of norepinephrine, Amer. J. Physiol. 210: 1369, 1966.
13. Hertting, G., Axelrod, J., Kopin, I. J., and Whitby, L. G.: Lack of uptake of catecholamines after chronic denervations of sympathetic nerves, Nature 189: 66, 1961.

Drugs

SUXAMETHONIUM DEATHS Three cases of death in boar litter mates following injection of suxamethonium during halothane anesthesia are described. These cases were characterized by convulsive seizure instead of fasciculation and board-like muscular rigidity ending in asphyxia. Apnea occurred but not relaxation. The skin showed cadaverous mottling and the muscles in life appeared like those in rigor mortis. In 2 cases temperature elevation occurred and in 1 case was recorded to 111° F. The electrocardiogram was not abnormal until death occurred. Brain changes were thought to be asphyxial in character only. The suxamethonium used was not abnormal in any way and was used on other animals without ill effects. Obviously this reaction may be genetically determined. Similar cases have been reported in humans. (*Hall, L. W., and others: Unusual Reaction to Suxamethonium Chloride, Brit. Med. J. 2: 1305 (Nov.) 1966.*)