The results of this experiment demonstrate a direct effect of halothane on isolated myocardium apart from any circulatory, nervous or hormonal influences. Because the reduction in peak tension was coupled with a parallel and proportional decrease in the rate of tension development, it appears that the cardiac effects of halothane are primarily due to diminished active state intensity of the contractile elements of heart muscle.

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Anesthesia

INSULIN IN PREGNANCY Metabolic changes occur in pregnancy which may be termed diabetogenic. These changes include hyperlipemia, decreased blood sugar levels after tolbutamide or insulin administration, alterated changes in serum in organic phosphate following carbohydrate challenge, and increased insulin requirements in pregnant diabetics. Hyperinsulin binding by plasma proteins is one possible explanation for these changes. By using chromatographic and radio-labeling techniques the previously known hyperinsulinemia of pregnancy was confirmed; however, no increase in insulin binding could be found in the serum during pregnancy. Other possible mechanisms of insulin resistance in pregnancy are discussed. (*Burt, P., and others: The State of Insulin in Blood During Pregnancy, Obstet. & Gynec. 28: 836 (Dec.) 1966.*)