ratio for anesthetic effect. It is clear that, because higher concentrations of anesthetic are necessary to anesthetize children, the risks of hypotension greater, and changes more rapid, continuous attention is necessary.

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Drugs

SUCCINYLDICHOLINE The negative inotropic effect of barbiturates on the isolated heart of the guinea pig can be decreased by the positive inotropic effect of succinyldicholine. Succinyldicholine prevents cardiac arrest from barbiturate doses twice the usual arrest doses. The decrease of heart rate following the injection of barbiturates is less pronounced if succinyldicholine is added. These findings may help to explain the beneficial effect of succinyldicholine immediately following induction of anesthesia with barbiturates in cardiac patients. Possible explanations are the blocking action of barbiturates on the preganglionic synapses of the sympathetic and parasympathetic systems or that the depression of the myocardium by barbiturates prevents response to the cholinergic effect of succinyldicholine. (*Droh, R., and Horst, J.: The Influence of Succinyldicholine on Myocardial Insufficiency following Barbiturates, Der. Anaesthesist 17: 301 (Sept.) 1968.*)