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Drugs

SOTALOL Methanesulfonanilide hydrochloride (Mead Johnson 1999), a beta blocker, was used in 20 patients with heart disease, eight of whom were in heart failure. Stroke index and left ventricular end-diastolic pressure were unaffected. Sotalol had no effect on the velocity of isotonic shortening (V_{max}) in dogs. It appears that sotalol lacks the negative inotropic effects of propranolol and pronethalol. (*Brooks, H., and others: Sotalol-induced Beta Blockade in Cardiac Patients, Circulation 42: 09 (July) 1970.*)

GLUCAGON The central and peripheral hemodynamic effects of glucagon were studied in 29 patients. Single intravenous doses of 2 or 5 mg increased myocardial contractility, cardiac output, and cardiac performance, as well as lowering pulmonary arterial pressure and pulmonary vascular resistance. Systemic pressures increased and systemic resistance decreased. These results indicate the importance of further study of the value of glucagon as a positive inotropic agent in low-output heart failure. (*Murtagh, J. G., and others: Haemodynamic Effects of Glucagon, Brit. Heart J. 32: 307 (May) 1970.*)