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Drugs

METHOXYFLURANE AND RENAL FAILURE Methoxyflurane has been implicated in postoperative polyuric renal failure. Seven patients subjected to radical surgical operations under methoxyflurane anesthesia developed renal failure. A striking degree of renal tubular oxalate precipitation was found by renal biopsy in all seven patients, and methoxyflurane was implicated as a cause of secondary hyperoxaluria and intrarenal oxalate precipitation when renal function was compromised during or immediately following operation. Strict attention to postoperative fluid balances in all patients receiving methoxyflurane is important to prevent or minimize oxalate precipitation in the kidneys. (*Frascino, J. A., et al.: Renal Oxalosis and Azotemia after Methoxyflurane Anesthesia, New Engl. J. Med. 283: 676 (Sept.) 1970.*) EDITOR'S COMMENT: What about the indications for use of methoxyflurane?

BETA-ADRENERGIC BLOCKADE AND ATRIAL ARRHYTHMIAS Alprenolol (Aptine), a new beta-adrenergic blocking agent, was administered intravenously on 25 occasions to 23 patients with atrial arrhythmias. Significant slowing of ventricular rates was achieved in 20 patients by decreasing atrioventricular conduction in those with atrial fibrillation and flutter and by slowing the rate of ectopic impulse formation in those with paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia. In four patients the latter arrhythmia reverted to sinus rhythm following administration of alprenolol. In four patients with atrial fibrillation the chronotropic effect of isoproterenol was sugstantially abolished after treatment with alprenolol. Alprenolol appears to be a safe, effective beta-adrenergic blocking agent in the treatment of atrial arrhythmias. (*Kerber, R. E., et al.: Treatment of Atrial Arrhythmias with Alprenolol, J.A.M.A. 214: 1849 (Dec.) 1970.*)