results suggest that Forane neither depresses the human heart nor predisposes to arrhythmias. In miniature swine the metabolism of Forane is less than that of halothane or methoxyflurane. Muscle relaxation is good, and compared with halothane, Forane markedly potentiates the effect of *d*-tubocurarine. On the other hand, Forane is a profound respiratory depressant.

Does Forane possess other defects? Does it produce hepatic or renal toxic effects in man? Although 500 human exposures have failed to reveal any such toxicity, thousands of exposures may be necessary to uncover a "sensitization" phenomenon or a subtle toxic effect. Is Forane metabolized in man? What are its uptake, distribution and excretion characteristics? How soluble is it in body tissues? Does it enhance uterine bleeding? Does it have adverse effects on the fetus? Are there unfavorable or favorable interactions with other drugs patients might receive concomitantly? The list of unanswered questions is long. If initial results are confirmed by further studies, Forane may constitute a major advance in the search for the perfect anesthetic.

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Drugs

HALOTHANE HEPATITIS Halothane-induced stimulation of lymphocytes was observed in ten of 15 patients for whom diagnoses of drug-induced hepatitis were made following halothane (nine patients) or methoxyflurane (one patient) anesthesia. Stimulation of lymphocytes was measured serologically by the incorporation of ^{3}H-thymidine into the DNA lymphocytes. Three patients exposed to halothane who did not develop jaundice, nine patients with hepatic disease and six healthy persons served as controls. None of the control patients showed any evidence of stimulation of lymphocytes in the presence of halothane. These data support the hypothesis that sensitization to halothane may be involved in the pathogenesis of hepatic damage following halothane and methoxyflurane. (*Paronetto, F., and Popper, H.: Lymphocyte Stimulation Induced by Halothane in Patients with Hepatitis Following Exposure to Halothane, New Engl. J. Med. 283: 277 (Aug.) 1970.*)