

BOOK REVIEWS

Burnell R. Brown, Jr., M.D. Ph.D., Editor

Isoflurane (Forane®), E. I. EGER II. Madison, Wisconsin, Ohio Medical Products, 1981. Pages: 110.

No new inhalation anesthetic has been as well-studied as isoflurane prior to its general release, nor has any drug of this genre been as closely scrutinized by various governmental agencies. The carcinogenicity scare aborted the release of isoflurane which was originally scheduled for 1975. Now, six years after that unfortunate episode and ten years after completion of most of the clinical trials, isoflurane is available for general use.

This compendium is unique for contemporary writings in that it is the product of a single author. Therefore, the seventeen chapters have a continuity of style which can be appreciated by the reader. Dr., Eger begins with a discussion of the history of the drug and the metamorphosis of inhalation anesthetics from diethyl ether to the polyhalogenated compounds in use today. Uptake and distribution, and effects of iso-

flurane on various body systems incorporating both animal and human data follow. It is unfortunate that many of the graphs do not contain conventional standard error or standard deviation bias. One has to place explicit trust in the author! The chapters, however, are informative, lucid, and well-written.

It is the belief of this reviewer that sufficient information is contained in this monograph to enable the anesthesia practitioner to safely anesthetize patients with isoflurane if he/she had digested the material presented by Dr. Eger. Since this is the paramount goal of the text's author, he has accomplished his intention.

BURNELL R. BROWN, JR., M.D., PH.D.
*Professor and Head, Anesthesiology
University of Arizona
Health Sciences Center
Tucson, Arizona 85724*