

Anesthesiology  
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## A Simple Way to Transport Drugs



FIG. 1. Sublimaze® ampule separator.

*To the Editor:*—Many careful anesthetists arrange medications in a set pattern for intraoperative use. However, transport drugs for postoperative airway and cardiovascular support often are pocketed or jumbled in a bag during a patient's transfer to the recovery room. Instead of fumbling for syringes, try organizing emergency drugs for patient transport in the convenient ampule packet separators normally discarded at the start of a case. The Sublimaze® brand of fentanyl separator pictured provides accessible and safely organized medications.

GEORGE S. BAUSE, M.D., M.P.H.  
*Resident*  
*Department of Anesthesiology and*  
*Critical Care Medicine*  
*Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions*  
*Baltimore, Maryland 21205*

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## A Lone Case of Gangrene Following Intraarterial Thiopental 2.5%

*To the Editor:*—Taff, reporting an episode of intraarterial injection of thiopental 2.5% without sequelae,<sup>1</sup> asks "Does 2.5% thiopental cause gangrene?"

The answer to his question is "No, for all practical purposes." Indeed, there is only one instance on record of gangrene following intraarterial thiopental 2.5%.<sup>2,3</sup> This twice-reported incident involved a 50-year-old woman who received a "small quantity" of the drug into the dorsum of her right hand, with subsequent gangrene and loss of all four fingers.

The occurrence of a lone episode of gangrene among the countless millions of administrations to date of thiopental 2.5% offers mute testimony to its high local safety. Fortunately, this concentration now seems to

have achieved worldwide recognition as the maximum safe strength of the drug for clinical use.

LESTER C. MARK, M.D.  
*Professor of Anesthesiology*  
*Columbia University*  
*622 West 168th Street*  
*New York, New York 10032*

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