CORRESPONDENCE

7. Sumikawa K, Anakata Y: The pressor effect of droperidol on

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In reply.—Papaveretum may release histamine in some patients, but it had been used previously in this patient without causing any disturbance and was therefore considered to be a suitable premedicant agent in this patient in view of the excellent sedation that it produces. The preoperative cardiovascular disturbances were temporally related to the physical movement of the patient to the operating room and not to the giving of the premedication, and I consider it most unlikely that this agent contributed to the tachycardia and hypertension found before induction, although this possibility cannot be excluded entirely.

The comment regarding anticholinergic agents would be appropriate for atropine, but not for scopolamine. In the dosage used, this agent produces “sedation, amnesia and bradycardia”1 because of its partial agonist effect and it has been widely recommended as a premedicant agent in patients with pheochromocytoma.2,3

Although there are a few case reports of droperidol causing hemodynamic disturbances in patients with pheochromocytoma, the agent has been widely used without causing problems.4 In this patient there was no evidence whatsoever that this drug contributed to the hemodynamic disturbances, as these were present before use of the agent and were not affected by its administration.

It seems unlikely, therefore, that the agents referred to significantly complicated this case, and I can see no reason to alter my conclusion that magnesium may be a useful agent in the management of pheochromocytoma. Since writing this case report, I have had the opportunity to use magnesium sulfate in another very similar case in which none of the three drugs referred to above were used and in which magnesium exerted an almost identical effect.

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REFERENCES


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The Origination of Common Eponyms Used in Anesthesia

To the Editor:—Many of the items we use everyday in anesthesia bear the name of the person who invented the particular device. It would seem that your readers would find a brief review of some of these “everyday eponyms in anesthesia” of interest.


Berman Airway: Robert A. Berman of Far Rockaway, New York. This is a plastic oropharyngeal airway, described in 1950, similar to the Guedel airway. It has a center bar, rather than a solitary cavity.

Bier Block: Karl Gustav August Bier, 1861–1949. He devised spinal anesthesia in 1899 and intravenous regional anesthesia in 1909, and worked in Kiel and Berlin.

Bizzari-Guiffria Laryngoscope Blade: Devised by Dante V. Bizzari and Joseph G. Guiffria, both of New York City. This laryngoscope is a modification of the Macintosh laryngoscope blade. The flange has been removed, making it easier to insert into the mouth past the teeth. It was described in 1958.
Use of Petroleum Jelly

To the Editor—The letter by Quintin et al.1 in the correspondence section of the March 1985 issue of Anesthesiology entitled “Decreasing the Incidence of Upper Airway Bleeding When Using a Large-size Nasotracheal Tube” is laudable in many respects. The authors correctly define a problem and suggest a cure.