
Local anesthesia is usually satisfactory for routine cystoscopy and ureteral catheterization. Nupercaine solution 1–600 or 1–500, 15–30 cc. in women, 30–45 cc. in men, is injected through a urethral catheter. In women, cocaine 10 per cent, on a lubricated cotton-wound toothpick, is placed in the urethra before injection of the nupercaine. Inhalation anesthesia is seldom used except for children and very nervous adults. Intravenous anesthesia, except for children, has largely replaced the inhalation type. Rupture of the bladder may occur when the patient is asleep. Caudal, transsacral or spinal anesthesia require that the patient be hospitalized. 1 reference.

F. A. M.


In a study of the pharmacology of barbiturate of sigmodal, it was found that this compound produced effects within a few minutes after oral administration to cats, that the effects lasted for days, and that in some cases neurological disturbances persisted after recovery from the narcosis and appeared to be irreversible. The literature did not reveal whether or not these effects were produced by other barbiturates. A study was planned to investigate these matters. The sodium salts of phenobarbital, pentobarbital, seconal, pernoston and the barbiturates of sigmodal were administered by stomach tube to small groups of animals, usually cats. The appearance of ataxia was taken as an indication of the onset of action, its disappearance as an indication of its complete elimination. An attempt was made to determine the LD50 of each compound. Because of the difficulty of determining oral LD50, approximate figures were determined for the compounds. These figures are: seconal, 50 mg. per Kg.; pentobarbital, 100; the barbiturate of sigmodal, 110; pernoston, 135; phenobarbital, 175. The courses of action after oral administration of the approximate LD50 dose in the cat are substantially similar for seconal, pentobarbital, the barbiturate of sigmodal, and pernoston. The onset of ataxia is slower with phenobarbital, and the time of disappearance of ataxia is about 3 times as long.

Large doses of the barbiturate of sigmodal produce an irreversible damage of the central nervous system in about 8 per cent of cats, but not in dogs. Large doses of pernoston also produce this action on the central nervous system to some degree in cats. This action was not observed with seconal, pentobarbital, and phenobarbital. In view of the species differences, the large doses of barbiturates used to produce the central nervous system effects, and the absence of reports of such effects from their therapeutic use, these observations in the cat may not apply to the use of barbiturates in humans, at least with hypnotic doses. 3 references.

F. A. M.


Twenty years ago the anesthetics used for rectal surgery at St. Mark's Hospital (London) were short deep anesthesia for small cases or spinal anesthesia. Stovaine was used for the spinal anesthetic, but since the introduction of nupercaine this drug has