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ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

MBC Stovaine Pastilles



In the opening decades of the 20th century, Menthol-Borate-Cocaine, or MBC pastilles, became a leading means for supplying local anesthetic relief to sore throat sufferers. As concerns mounted over cocaine's toxic and addictive properties, the pharmaceutical industry began synthesizing alternatives, such as the local anesthetic pioneered by France's Ernest Fourneau (whose surname in French meant "stove"). Wisely steering Anglophones clear of the socially awkward "Fourneau-caine," Fourneau branded his amylocaine as "Stovaine." Because ophthalmic surgeons had successfully paired previous local anesthetics for topical use on the eye, MBC Stovaine Pastilles were similarly formulated by compounding classic cocaine with the upstart Stovaine. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image also appears in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

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