

comfort to the patient. Nupercaine in the solution and dosage recommended has very little or no depressive effect on the cardiovascular system. . . . The incidence of complications is chiefly dependent on the type of operation and grade of risk."

J. C. M. C.

VOLPITTO, PERRY P.: "*Intracaine*" in *Regional Anesthesia*. (A Clinical Report.) *South. Med. J.* 33: 1029 (Oct.) 1940.

Volpitto states that intracaine (beta diethylamino ethyl p ethoxy benzoate hydrochloride) a benzoic acid derivative is reported to have about the same toxicity as procaine, and is supposed to be effective in about half the dosage for periods twice as long.

The author reports the use of the agent in 100 cases. One per cent. was used for nerve blocks; one half per cent. for infiltration anesthesia. No epinephrine was used but all patients were premedicated with small doses of barbiturates. Seven failures are reported, due to lack of proficiency of individual administrators. No local or toxic reactions occurred. It is concluded that the series is inadequate to evaluate the agent, that it is capable of producing satisfactory anesthesia with no apparent immediate or latent toxic effects, that longer duration of anesthesia was not established, and that it compares favorably with procaine in similar concentrations.

C. P. W.

SILVERS, H. I., AND LEONARD, I. E., JR.: *The Use of Neosynephrin Hydrochloride in Maintaining Blood Pressure During Spinal Anesthesia*. *Am. J. Surg.* 50: 79-83 (Oct.) 1940.

"One of the major problems in spinal anesthesia is the constantly falling blood pressure. Epinephrine and ephedrine, especially the latter, have been used to preserve its stability. . . .

Neosynephrin hydrochloride is a synthetic drug resembling epinephrine and ephedrine both structurally and pharmacologically. . . . In our series of fifty cases of spinal anesthesia using neosynephrin hydrochloride as a vasoconstrictor, we were impressed by the ready and repeated response of the blood pressure; the bradycardia and the lack of arrhythmia; and the absence of nervousness or anxiety on the part of the patient. . . .

"Neosynephrin hydrochloride is an effective aid in maintaining the stability of blood pressure during spinal anesthesia. A definite bradycardia generally occurs after its administration. Deleterious effects such as arrhythmia, palpitation, anxiety or nervousness were not manifest if neosynephrin was given in therapeutic doses. The margin of safety of neosynephrin is greater than that of epinephrine or ephedrine. It is not effective in cases where there is loss of blood volume or shock caused by toxic conditions such as peritonitis. Until its exact action on the heart has been proved, it is best to use small doses or abandon its use entirely in cases which present serious cardiac pathology."

J. C. M. C.

WOODBIDGE, P. D., HORTON, J. W., AND CONNELL, EARL: *Prevention of Ignition of Anesthetic Gases by Static Spark*. *Brit. J. Anesth.* 17: 62-64 (July) 1940.

"As a result of our investigation of a fatal anesthetic explosion, a means of preventing ignition of anesthetic gases by static spark has been devised which we believe to be of sufficient value to warrant general adoption. Conditions were set up which duplicated those existing at the time of the explosion, and various observations were made. . . . The conclusions follow: Adequate protection against electrostatic sparks is not necessarily obtained by relative hu-