ABSTRACTS

Editorial Comment: A fixed style of presentation for this department of Anesthesiology has purposely not been defined. It is the wish of the Editorial Board to provide our readers with the type of abstract they desire. Correspondence is invited offering suggestions in regard to the length of abstracts, character of them, and source of them. The Board will appreciate the cooperation of the membership of the Society in submitting abstracts of outstanding articles to be considered for publication.


Experiments were designed to study the effect of scopolamine alone on the fetus. Cat fetuses were observed as the abdominal wall and uterus were opened, permitting the unborn to float in a bath of Ringer's solution. The placental circulation, of course, was kept undisturbed by this technic. Dosage of the drug was from 10 to 150 mg. per kilogram administered intravenously into the maternal animal. Depression of activity was noted in non-pregnant animals after a dosage of scopolamine of 0.25 mg. per kilogram.

The outstanding result was the persistence of marked activity of the fetuses despite administration of large doses to the mother. In several fetuses direct injection of scopolamine into the umbilical vein resulted in no marked depression of fetal activity.

The fetuses survived following delivery and acted as normally as the controls. The presence of the drug in the fetus was demonstrated by testing samples of fetal urine.

There also appeared to be no effect on the labor mechanism, for instead of hysterectomy, some maternal animals were allowed to deliver spontaneously under the influence of scopolamine. Our conclusion is therefore that in cats at least scopolamine even in large doses causes no evident fetal injury.

R. D. D.


"The purpose of this communication is to offer evidence that division of the femoral vein is advisable as a routine prophylactic measure against pulmonary embolism when thrombosis of the deep veins of the lower leg is present or suspected."

The site of origin of the embolus is not usually in the iliac or pelvic veins. In 133 cases of venous thrombosis, Frykholm showed the site to be below the entrance of the deep femoral in 85 per cent. The work of Neuman, Roessle and Barker is also cited to substantiate the fact that "... the deep veins of the lower leg must be regarded by far the most common site of origin of venous thrombosis."

The site of ligation suggested is just below the entrance of the deep femoral. The internal saphenous and deep femoral remain as adequate pathways for return flow of blood. No proximal segment of vein is left with a sluggish stream. The exposure permits inspection of the deep femoral and division of this also, if it contains a thrombus.

The use of intravenous heparin seems to be effective, but it is too expensive and too much of a burden on the patient to permit routine postoperative use. Careful and repeated examination of the lower legs for the earliest manifestations of thrombosis is advised.

The symptoms are: pain and tender-