

## 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.

McINTOSH, T. W.: *Does Your Hospital Need a Recovery Room?* California Med. 78: 438-439 (May) 1953.

"To determine both the desirability of a recovery room and the particular needs which it would fill, a survey was made of surgical cases in a 220-bed hospital with seven to eight operating rooms which is in an urban area near Los Angeles. The object was to learn what patients would have been cared for postoperatively in a recovery room had one been available. . . . To make possible a judgment as to which patients would have been sent to a recovery room, a chart was placed on each floor for recording of the recovery time and the condition of each of the 475 patients. The author then correlated the information on these charts with the nurses' other records. The conclusion was that 296 patients would have been sent to a recovery room. . . . Special nurses cared for 48 of the 296 'recovery room patients'; had these patients in fact been concentrated in a recovery room all would have been under the care of special nurses during the critical period. . . . The greatest number of patients arrived during the period in which routine duties are heaviest and that of those arriving during the lunch period the greater proportion would have gone to a recovery room had there been one. It is to be

noted that the recovery time for some patients arriving before 11:30 a.m. extended well beyond that time. Average recovery time for 'recovery room patients' was 1 hour and 45 minutes. . . .

"The following list shows the percentage of 'recovery room patients' among those receiving one of the seven anesthetics most commonly used in the cases in the survey (excluding local anesthetics):

Anesthetic	Number of Cases in Which Used	Recovery Room Patients	
		Number	Per Cent
Pentothal-spinal	89	53	60
Pentothal-curare-gas-oral tracheal	76	73	96
Pentothal-gas	65	48	74
Pentothal-curare-gas	54	48	89
Spinal	46	2	4
Pentothal	45	27	60
Pentothal-spinal-gas	20	14	70

"That pre-sedation affects recovery time is indicated by the facts that of 22 patients who were not given pre-sedation, only eight or 36 per cent would have been sent to a recovery room; of 59 patients given light pre-sedation, 32 or 54 per cent; moderate (258 cases), 162 patients or 63 per cent; and heavy (136 cases), 94 patients or 70 per cent."

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