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Anesthesia

SPINAL ANESTHESIA There is a small but definite increase in femoral vein oxygen tension and a small but definite decrease in arteriovenous oxygen difference after spinal block in patients with peripheral vascular disease. This is presumably due to an increase in flow to the extremity, primarily to muscle. The mechanism is presumably that of a preganglionic block causing an arterial and arteriolar dilatation. (Cerrilli, G. J., and Engell, H. C.: *The Effect of Spinal Anesthesia on Femoral Vein Oxygen Tension, Surgery* 60: 668 (Sept.) 1966.)

OPIATES IN OBSTETRICS In a double blind study of 471 patients using four treatment groups nearly similar in all respects to insure random sampling, it was found that anileridine and meperidine produced exactly comparable effects, with 30 mg. anileridine being equivalent to 75 mg. meperidine. Apgar ratings were essentially the same in all four treatment groups. No significant side effects were noted with either drug and no real advantage was obtained when either were combined with a phenothiazine. (Cavanagh, D., and others: *Comparison of Anileridine and Meperidine as Obstetric Analgesia, Amer. J. Obstet. Gynec.* 96: 213 (Sept.) 1966.)