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Anesthesia

LOCAL ANESTHETICS The effects of carbonic acid salts of lidocaine and prilocaine were compared with those of standard hydrochloride salts of these drugs in two groups of patients. A total of 853 patients received various types of peripheral nerve blocks, epidural blocks for general surgical procedures, and epidural blocks for abdominal and vaginal obstetrical procedures. Carbonated compounds shortened induction time by 33 per cent, increased intensity of analgesia by 33 per cent, and slightly prolonged duration of block. Dose requirements were smaller than when hydrochloride compounds were used. (*Bromage, P. R.: Improved Conduction Blockade in Surgery and Obstetrics: Carbonated Local Anesthetics, Canad. Med. Ass. J.* 97: 1377 (Dec.) 1967.)