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Anesthesia

CESAREAN SECTION For cesarean section 12 patients were anesthetized with spinal anesthesia. Blood pressure, pulse, cardiac output, stroke volume, blood volume, and acid-base studies were performed before anesthesia, after anesthesia, and after delivery. Anesthetic levels varied between T2 and T8. Every patient developed a fall in systolic and diastolic blood pressure after anesthesia. In eight of the 12 patients heart rate declined. There was a mean drop in cardiac output from 5,400 ml./min. to 3,560 ml./min. Turning the patients on their sides increased cardiac output, heart rate and stroke volume. Delivery resulted in a mean increase in cardiac output of 2,880 ml. to 8,410 ml., compared with a mean output of 5,530 ml. just before delivery. Heart rate declined by an average of 11 beats per minute, systolic pressure increased 21.8 torr and central venous pressure rose from 4.9 to 9.75 cm. H₂O. Blood volume decreased 16.2 per cent or 1,004 ml. after delivery, and then continued to decline until the fifth postpartum day. Cesarean section under spinal anesthesia seems contraindicated in the pregnant patient with heart disease because of the extensive cardiovascular changes encountered. (*Ueland, K., Gills, R., and Hansen, J.: Maternal Cardiovascular Dynamics, Amer. J. Obstet. Gynec.* 100: 42 (Jan.) 1968.)