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Drugs

BARBITURATES AND ANTICOAGULATION Bleeding reactions occurred during anticoagulant therapy in 67 patients. In 14 patients, enzyme induction appeared to be a factor, and two of these patients died. The records of 52 patients admitted for myocardial infarction and treated with anticoagulants were reviewed. Forty patients had received barbiturates; they showed more erratic control of anticoagulant effect (and a shorter prothrombin time in spite of larger dose of warfarin sodium) than patients not receiving barbiturates. Barbiturate interference with anticoagulant activity of coumarin drugs in animals by enzyme induction is well documented. Circumstantial evidence suggests that it also occurs in man. Awareness of this type of drug interaction and close attention to proper anticoagulant dose based on frequent prothrombin determinations can prevent some of the problems that occur during anticoagulant treatment. (MacDonald, M. G., and Robinson, D. S.: *Clinical Observations of Possible Barbiturate Interference with Anticoagulation*, *J.A.M.A.* 204: 97 (April) 1968.)

PUPILLARY EFFECTS OF NARCOTICS Morphine, but not codeine, produces a definite degree of miosis when applied locally to the conjunctival sacs of human volunteers. Locally applied nalorphine may also produce miosis by direct action, but this drug appears to be absorbed more readily than morphine and its systemic effects largely mask its local effects. Locally applied nalorphine antagonizes miosis produced by locally produced morphine. (Nomof, N., and others: *The Local Effect of Morphine, Nalorphine, and Codeine on the Diameter of the Pupil of the Eye*, *Clin. Pharmacol. Therap.* 9: 358 (May) 1968.)

PENTAZOCINE ISOMERS Relative respiratory depressant potencies of d- and l-isomers of pentazocine were determined in a crossover study in man. In doses of 30 to 60 mg, the l-isomer was a potent respiratory depressant, whereas the d-isomer was not. The presently used pentazocine is a racemic mixture. (Bellocille, J. W., and Forrest, W. H.: *Respiratory and Subjective Effects of d- and l-Pentazocine*, *Clin. Pharmacol. Therap.* 9: 142 (March) 1968.)