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Drugs

NARCOTIC ANTAGONIST A study was performed in volunteers to determine the relative degrees of respiratory depression produced by nalorphine and morphine and their interaction when administered together. The relative potency of nalorphine when compared with morphine was found to be 0.74; that is, 13.5 mg nalorphine produced depression in respiration approximately equivalent to 10 mg morphine. The data also suggest that antagonism of the respiratory effects of morphine by nalorphine is related primarily to differences in intrinsic activity of the drugs and not solely to receptor affinity. Their interaction could thus be classified as competitive dualism. (Bellville, J., and Fleischli, G.: *The Interaction of Morphine and Nalorphine on Respiration, Clin. Pharmacol. Therap.* 9: 152 (March) 1968.)

RESERPINE Hypertensive patients were studied before and after 30 days of treatment with reserpine. Cardiac output, measured both at rest and after induced atrial tachycardia, was found to be reduced approximately 25 per cent after reserpine treatment, while resting pulse was little affected. Atrioventricular conduction time increased significantly after reserpine. These results indicate that reserpine may lower cardiac output at rest significantly with no further decrease during atrial tachycardia. Reserpine may enhance second-degree heart block during induced atrial tachycardia. (Cohen, S. I., and others: *Effects of Reserpine Therapy on Cardiac Output and Atrioventricular Conduction During Rest and Controlled Heart Rates in Patients with Essential Hypertension, Circulation* 37: 738 (May) 1968.)