

One way to visualize this action is in terms of the important interplay between impulses arriving along A-fibers and C-fibers in the dorsal horn.¹⁷ Conceivably, general anesthetics, much like local anesthetics, could affect small fibers more profoundly than large fibers.¹⁸

While differences between various preparations and species clearly exist, similarities, nevertheless, are more striking. In fact, studies of long-term electrode-implanted rats show surprisingly little difference in dorsal horn activity on comparison of high spinal and intact animals.¹⁹ Our experiments on spinal and decerebrate cats thus may be expected to yield qualitatively similar results in intact animals.

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Drugs

TETANUS A syndrome of hyperactivity of the sympathetic nervous system has been found in patients who have severe tetanus. Chlorpromazine did not provide satisfactory control, and general anesthesia for a prolonged period was thought to be too toxic. A combination of propranolol and bethanidine (action at postganglionic nerve endings) was used in three patients to block adrenergic effector mechanisms, and proved successful in controlling the hypertension, tachycardia, and cardiac dysrhythmias. (Prys-Roberts, C., and others: *Treatment of Sympathetic Overactivity in Tetanus, Lancet* 1: 542 (March) 1969.)