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Drugs

CARDIOVASCULAR RESPONSE TO MORPHINE The cardiovascular responses to intravenous morphine, 1 mg/kg body weight, were compared in seven patients with aortic-valve disease and eight without major cardiac or pulmonary disease. The control pulse rates were higher and the control stroke indexes lower in the patients with cardiac disease. Following administration of morphine, significant increases in cardiac index, stroke index, central venous pressure and pulmonary arterial pressure occurred in the cardiac-disease patients but not in other patients. These observations suggest that large doses of morphine may be used with safety in patients with minimal hemodynamic reserves. (*Lowenstein, E., and others: Cardiovascular Response to Large Doses of Intravenous Morphine in Man, New Engl. J. Med.* 281: 1389 (Dec.) 1969.)