

References

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Drugs

TOXICITY OF AEROSOLS The fluoroalkane gases used to propel aerosols were toxic to the hearts of 34 mice, sensitizing them to sinus bradycardia, atrioventricular block, and T-wave depression induced by asphyxia. Cardiac sensitization was rapid, long-lasting, and lethal. It also occurred in rats and dogs. The propellants are postulated to possess a spectrum of cardiotoxic effects capable of causing bradyarrhythmias, tachyarrhythmias, or myocardial depression. In humans the cardiac toxicity of aerosol propellants, particularly during asphyxia, may be a cause of sudden death in youths who "turn on" by inhaling propellants and in patients with asthma who use bronchodilator aerosols excessively. Cardiac toxicity due to propellant inhalation may be a potential hazard to frequent users of pressurized aerosol dispensers. (*Taylor, G. J., and Harris, W. S.: Cardiac Toxicity of Aerosol Propellants, J.A.M.A. 214: 81 (Oct.) 1970.*)