

mals following administration of both of these compounds.<sup>2, 7, 9, 10</sup> Since these agents share similar biodegradation products, it would not be surprising for fluroxene to cause hepatic damage similar to that described for halothane. While we cannot conclude that there was a definite cause-effect relationship between fluroxene and hepatic dysfunction in the case presented here, we feel that the likelihood of such a relationship is strong. As clinical use of fluroxene increases, more case reports such as this may be anticipated.

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### Neonatology

**PREDICTABILITY OF RDS** This study presents data relating the respiratory distress syndrome to gestational age and to mode of delivery. Incidence of and mortality from RDS were determined in 10,335 infants delivered vaginally and 1,457 delivered by cesarean section. In the vaginally-delivered group, as gestational age decreased from 39-40 weeks to 29-30 weeks, the incidence of RDS increased from 0.05 to 64 per cent and mortality from RDS rose from zero to 37 per cent. In babies delivered by cesarean section, the incidence of RDS increased from 0.8 to 54 per cent and mortality from zero to 43 per cent as gestational age decreased from 39-40 weeks to 31-32 weeks. The authors also present data indicating that RDS is unrelated to the presence of maternal diabetes or to artificially-induced labor. The syndrome seldom was seen after 38 weeks of gestation in any group analyzed, but the degree of prematurity necessary for onset of the disease is slight, since 37-38-week-old newborns may be affected. The reason for the greater incidence of RDS in infants delivered by cesarean section is unexplained. (*Usher, R. H., Allen, A. C., and McLean, F. H.: Risk of Respiratory Distress Syndrome Related to Gestational Age, Route of Delivery, and Maternal Diabetes, Am. J. Obstet. Gynecol.* 3: 826-832, 1971.) **ABSTRACTER'S COMMENT:** The value of these data is limited only by the fact that the population under consideration was 98 per cent Caucasian. The authors, however, present data from Boston's Joslin Clinic corroborating their findings regarding lack of a relationship between maternal diabetes and RDS.