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### Obstetrics

**ANESTHESIA EFFECT ON LABOR** The second stage of labor was studied in 42 patients before and after conduction anesthesia. Intrauterine pressure and superimposed voluntary effort before and after induction of anesthesia were measured and compared. Voluntary effort increased progressively during the second stage in patients receiving pudendal block. Patients having peridural block showed a slight decrease in voluntary effort. Patients with spinal block had a mean reduction in voluntary effort after the block. Patients receiving peridural block showed a mean decrease in the intensity of uterine contractions, but no change in contraction intensity was seen after pudendal or spinal block. A review of the records of 3,265 primigravid term patients revealed an increased length of the second stage and an increased incidence of forceps deliveries in patients with spinal and peridural anesthesia compared with pudendal anesthesia. (*Johnson, W. L., and others: Effect of Pudendal, Spinal, and Peridural Block Anesthesia on the Second Stage of Labor, Am. J. Obstet. Gynecol.* 113: 166-175, 1972.)