

Anesthesiology
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A Simple Way to Transport Drugs



FIG. 1. Sublimaze® ampule separator.

To the Editor:—Many careful anesthetists arrange medications in a set pattern for intraoperative use. However, transport drugs for postoperative airway and cardiovascular support often are pocketed or jumbled in a bag during a patient's transfer to the recovery room. Instead of fumbling for syringes, try organizing emergency drugs for patient transport in the convenient ampule packet separators normally discarded at the start of a case. The Sublimaze® brand of fentanyl separator pictured provides accessible and safely organized medications.

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A Lone Case of Gangrene Following Intraarterial Thiopental 2.5%

To the Editor:—Taff, reporting an episode of intraarterial injection of thiopental 2.5% without sequelae,¹ asks "Does 2.5% thiopental cause gangrene?"

The answer to his question is "No, for all practical purposes." Indeed, there is only one instance on record of gangrene following intraarterial thiopental 2.5%.^{2,3} This twice-reported incident involved a 50-year-old woman who received a "small quantity" of the drug into the dorsum of her right hand, with subsequent gangrene and loss of all four fingers.

The occurrence of a lone episode of gangrene among the countless millions of administrations to date of thiopental 2.5% offers mute testimony to its high local safety. Fortunately, this concentration now seems to

have achieved worldwide recognition as the maximum safe strength of the drug for clinical use.

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