HORNER'S SYNDROME FOLLOWING OBSTETRIC EXTRADURAL BLOCK ANALGESIA

Sir,—An 18-year-old primiparous patient (wt. 70 kg) complained of "a droopy left eyelid and blurred vision" 1 hr after the onset of lumbar extradural blockade. A catheter had been introduced through the L3–4 interspace with the patient in the left lateral position and 13 ml of bupivacaine 0.25% with adrenaline had been injected with the patient in the supine position. Good pain relief had persisted for 50 min and then disappeared gradually. It did not recur following a subsequent injection 2 hr after the initial injection.

In the methohexital group, 16 patients complained of pains in the neck and shoulder, 16 of pain in the back, and 10 of pains "all over". In the propanidid and lignocaine group, six patients complained of pain in the neck and shoulder, six of pain in the back, but none of more extensive pains. In the former group, 13 out of 45 did not complain of pain until the 2nd day, in the latter eight out of 16.

E. N. S. FRY
Stockton-on-Tees

REFERENCES


BRITISH JOURNAL OF ANAESTHESIA

REDUCTION OF POST-SUXAMETHONIUM MUSCLE PAINS

Sir,—The extent of muscle fasciculations is less in patients receiving propanidid, suxamethonium and lignocaine than in patients receiving methohexitone and suxamethonium (Fry, 1975). I should like to describe a subsequent study in which the use of propanidid and lignocaine was shown also to reduce the incidence of muscle pains following surgery.

Two hundred patients aged between 14 and 17 yr were studied. Patients having extensive or upper abdominal operations, and those required to lie still for 2 days after operation were excluded. An electronically derived random-number series was used to allocate the patients to one of two groups who received either propanidid, lignocaine and suxamethonium or methohexitone and suxamethonium. At approximately 24 and 48 hr after operation, the patients were asked the following questions: (1) How are you? (2) Are you feeling sick? (3) Does it hurt where you had the operation? (4) Have you any aches or pains anywhere else? To reduce bias, neither the severity nor the cause of any pain was sought. The results are presented in table I.

In the methohexitone group, 16 patients complained of pains in the neck and shoulder, 16 of pain in the back, and 10 of pains "all over". In the propanidid and lignocaine group, six patients complained of pain in the neck and shoulder, six of pain in the back, but none of more extensive pains. In the former group, 13 out of 45 did not complain of pain until the 2nd day, in the latter eight out of 16.

E. N. S. FRY
Stockton-on-Tees

REFERENCES