

Many surgeons prefer a particular drug for certain operations, as in abdominal work some prefer chloroform to ether.

Pregnancy, as a rule, has but little bearing on anaesthesia. Such women are of a nervous, excitable temperament, with the result that chloroform gives better results than ether, and with it there is less tendency to post-anaesthetic vomiting. Avoid anaesthetics after the eighth month if possible.

An anaesthetic which has gained considerable popularity of late for general work is that of nitrous oxide with oxygen. Its successful administration, however, requires the skill of a thoroughly trained anaesthetist, as it is the most difficult to administer.

The after effects of chloroform on the blood and internal organs, especially the liver and kidneys, are much more severe than in the case of ether, whilst nitrous oxide and oxygen leaves the least ill effects on the system.

Repeated anaesthetizations without intervals of some length should be avoided.

4. MORPHINE, ATROPINE, SCOPOLAMINE AND STRYCHNINE IN ANAESTHESIA.

Persons more or less narcotized with morphine and atropine or scopolamine are much more easy to handle, their nerves are quieted and they require much less anaesthetic, and in prolonged operations such drugs are of great benefit, giving the maximum amount of analgesia with minimum amount of danger.

Morphine on the central nervous system has a mixed action of stimulation and depression of which the depressive action dominates. This depressive action affects the power of will and attention more than the motor areas. Morphine has but little direct action on circulation, though action of heart may be slightly quickened at first. Respirations are slower, although they may be deeper at first and under large doses may become very weak and irregular. Secretion of carbonic acid lessened during the depressive stage. Morphine is excreted largely by the digestive tract.

Atropine, according to Cushny, acts as a stimulant to the central nervous system and paralyzes the terminations of a number of nerves, notably those that supply involuntary muscle, secretory glands and heart. Dilatation of pupil with atropine due to paralyzation of the terminations of the motor nerve in the circular muscle of the iris. Atropine usually undergoes complete oxidation in the tissues, and is secreted in the urine. Atropine causes a marked rise of temperature.

Scopolamine (hyoscine hydrobromide) resembles atropine in its peripheral action, but is more powerful. On the central nervous system it produces a great desire for sleep, which may last from 4 to 7 hours.