

Doctors Can Now Inject Ether And Chloroform

Atlantic City (Science Service) - Doctors can now anesthetize their patients by injecting anesthetics such as ether and chloroform, formerly used only as inhalants, scientists attending the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology meeting learned here recently.

Dr. John C. Krantz Jr. of the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, told colleagues that patients can now be "put under" faster and the cumbersome face masks can be eliminated with this new injectable form of the volatile anesthetics.

The standard, non-volatile, injectable anesthetics are acceptable for short-duration surgery, he said, but the old volatile inhalants are more dependable for lengthy operations, and scientists have been searching for an injectable form for years.

The main stumbling block has been the fact that these agents do not dissolve well in the normal salt solution.

Dr. Krantz and his co-workers tried using the anesthetics dissolved in oil and emulsified in a sugar (glucose) solution, and they finally found the right combination.

The anesthetic used was methoxyflurane, a methyl ether, and the emulsifying agent was "lecithin and Pluronic F 68." This particular emulsion is stable for several months, is compatible with the elements of the blood, is easily sterilized, affects blood pressure only slightly, works quickly in small amounts and lets the patient recover rapidly with very few side effects.

The new emulsion has been used successfully on four persons, Dr. Krantz said, and one of them, Dr. Helmut F. Cascorbi, is a member of his own research team.

Both Dr. Krantz and Dr. Cascorbi believe that now that one injectable volatile anesthetic has been prepared, it will be a simple matter to prepare others. Drs. Martin Heinrich, Raymond M. Burgess and Martin I. Gold, and Miss Frieda Rudo, concur.

Benton County Faces Tax Levy Decrease

Corvallis - Taxes for operating Benton county during the next fiscal year will be cut almost in half if the county budget review committee approves a proposed budget next week.

Use of "surplus" funds to meet the increased operating costs is planned. The County Court said it would result in reducing the millage levy from \$4.50 for each \$1,000 or assessed value to about \$3.

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