How do you balance your anaesthesia?

Analgesia, sleep, and muscle relaxation are well recognised requirements of an anaesthetic technique. Increasingly analgesic supplementation is regarded as an important part of patient protection.

If profound analgesia, rapid onset of action, and a predictable duration of effect are important criteria in the selection of the ideal analgesic supplement, then you must consider the advantages offered by Sublimaze* (fentanyl).

Sublimaze shows peak activity within 2-3 minutes. Sublimaze has a wide safety margin, so high doses can be used to provide adequate analgesia in all situations. Surgical analgesia of sufficient duration for most procedures can be produced from a single injection. Supplemental doses may be given whenever signs of lightening of anaesthesia become apparent.

Patients normally awake rapidly, free from pain without unpleasant dreams or postoperative shaking. Respiratory depression is of shorter duration than with other narcotics and can be avoided postoperatively by ceasing supplementary doses of Sublimaze, 20 minutes before the estimated completion of the operation.

Alternatively rapid reversal of respiratory depression may be achieved with a narcotic antagonist (e.g. naloxone).

Sublimaze does not cause histamine release or affect renal haemodynamics. Sublimaze is not reported to depress myocardial contractility or cause increased myocardial sensitivity, arrhythmias or sensitivity to catecholamines. Moreover repeated use of Sublimaze is unlikely to cause malignant hyperpyrexia or damage to the kidney or liver.

Routine administration of atropine may be used to prevent bradycardia of vagal origin and any slight hypotensive effect. Occasional postoperative nausea or vomiting is eliminated by antiemetics. Rarely encountered chest wall rigidity may be avoided with muscle relaxants. If high doses of Sublimaze are used, relaxants should be given with IPPR.


For full information write to the Anaesthetics Liaison Officer, Janssen Pharmaceutical Limited, Janssen House, Marlow, Bucks. SL7 1ET

...supplement with fentanyl Sublimaze

*Trade Mark

Sublimaze is also available in a 10ml ampoule
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