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Evaluation of Propoxyphene Napsylate Compound in *post partum* Uterine Cramping

ROBERT O. BAUER, ARTHUR BAPTISTI, jr. †, and CHARLES M. GRUBER, jr.

Obstetrical Anesthesia Section, Departments of Anesthesia, Pharmacology and Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of California School of Medicine, Los Angeles, Calif., Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Lilly Laboratory for Clinical Research, Marion County General Hospital, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, Ind.

Abstract. Two independent investigators, using identical protocols, evaluated the analgesic and adverse effects of aspirin and phenacetin alone and in combination. The result of adding caffeine and propoxyphene napsylate to the combination was included. *Post partum* uterine cramping was not altered to a significant extent when doses other than those of propoxyphene napsylate were doubled.

Reports of adverse reactions were increased where the larger doses were given.

Key Words

Propoxyphene
napsylate
Aspirin
Analgesia
Uterine cramping
Phenacetin
Caffeine

Subjects

Female patients
with *post partum* pain

The issues concerning the drugs under test impose the design of each pharmacologic experiment on the investigators. A factorial study is the basic, and probably most efficient, method which is used to determine the clinical effects of analgesic drugs in combination [HOUDÉ *et al.*, 1965]. Orthogonal treatment contrasts allow evaluations of each drug alone and the effects of various combinations. Control with a blank or dummy medication is important. If an inactive medication is excluded, a secondary device – the dose response – may test the method for sensitivity to drug effects. Although there are several published reports of dose response to aspirin or aspirin compound [BEAVER, 1966], such responses occur inconsistently and, therefore, the dose response is a poor substitute for placebo in bioassays for clinical effects with these medications.

This report concerns a factorial study with propoxyphene and aspirin compound, a method of assay established in one institution [GRUBER and BAPTISTI, 1963] and extended to a second, and a protocol modified at the