

Effects of alfentanil on the pressor and catecholamine responses to tracheal intubation

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Abstract:

The effects of alfentanil (given during induction of anaesthesia) on the haemodynamic and catecholamine responses to tracheal intubation were studied in 44 adult patients who received alfentanil 10 micrograms kg⁻¹ or 40 micrograms kg⁻¹, or saline placebo. Alfentanil 10 micrograms kg⁻¹ and 40 micrograms kg⁻¹ prevented any increase in heart rate and arterial pressure after tracheal intubation. Alfentanil 40 micrograms kg⁻¹ produced profound hypotension and bradycardia. The use of alfentanil in both doses was associated with a decrease in plasma adrenaline concentrations after tracheal intubation.