3. Boulland P, *et al.* Mélange équimolaire oxygène-protoxyde d'azote (MEOPA): rappels théoriques et modalités pratiques d'utilisation. *Ann Fr Anesth Reanim* 2005; **24:** 1305–12.
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5. O'Sullivan Í, Benger J. Nitrous oxide in emergency medicine. *Emerg Med J* 2003; **20:** 214–17.
6. Faddy SC, Garlick SR. A systematic review of the safety of analgesia with 50% nitrous oxide: can lay responders use analgesic gases in the prehospital setting? *Emerg Med J* 2005; **22:** 901–8.
7. Fosburg MT, Crone RK. Nitrous oxide analgesia for refractory pain in the terminally ill. *JAMA* 1983; **250:** 511–13.

Preparations

Proprietary Preparations (details are given in Part 3)
Cz.: Pulmomix Forte†.

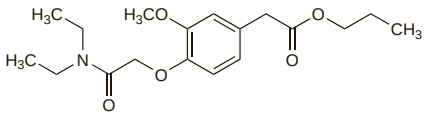
Multi-ingredient: ***Fr.:*** Kalinox; Medimix; ***S.Afr.:*** Entonox; ***UK:*** Entonox; Equanox.

Propanidid *(BAN, USAN, rINN)*

Bayer-1420; FBA-1420; Propanidide; Propanididum; TH-2180; WH-5668. Propyl 4-diethylcarbamoylmethoxy-3-methoxyphenylacetate.

Пропанидид

$C_{18}H_{27}NO_5$ = 337.4.
CAS — 1421-14-3.
ATC — N01AX04.
ATC Vet — QN01AX04.



Profile

Propanidid has been used as an intravenous anaesthetic for rapid induction and for maintenance of general anaesthesia of short duration.

Commercial preparations of propanidid were provided as a liquid in polyethoxylated castor oil. Anaphylactoid reactions associated with the vehicle led to the general withdrawal of propanidid from use.

Porphyria. Propanidid is considered to be unsafe in patients with porphyria although there is conflicting experimental evidence of porphyrinogenicity.

Preparations

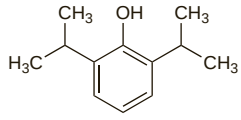
Proprietary Preparations (details are given in Part 3)
Arg.: Progray; ***Mex.:*** Panitol.

Propofol *(BAN, USAN, rINN)*

Disoprofol; ICI-35868; Propofoli; Propofolis; Propofolum. 2,6-Diisopropylphenol; 2,6-Bis(1-methylethyl)phenol.

Пропофол

$C_{12}H_{18}O$ = 178.3.
CAS — 2078-54-8.
ATC — N01AX10.
ATC Vet — QN01AX10.



Pharmacopoeias. In *Eur.* (see p.vii) and *US*.
Ph. Eur. 6.2 (Propofol). A colourless or very light yellow, clear liquid. Very slightly soluble in water; miscible with hexane and with methyl alcohol. Store under an inert gas. Protect from light.
USP 31 (Propofol). A clear, colourless to slightly yellowish liquid. Very slightly soluble in water; very soluble in dehydrated alcohol and in methyl alcohol; slightly soluble in cyclohexane and in isopropyl alcohol. Store under an inert gas in airtight containers. Protect from light.

Adverse Effects

Early studies with propofol used a preparation formulated with polyethoxylated castor oil. Because of anaphylactoid reactions the preparation was reformulated with a vehicle of soya oil and purified egg phosphatide. Adverse effects with this preparation include pain on injection especially if the injection is into a small vein. Local pain may be reduced by injection into a large vein or by injection of intravenous lidocaine. Apnoea may be frequent; apnoea lasting longer than 60 seconds has been reported to occur in 12% of patients. There are isolated reports of pulmonary oedema. Cardiovascular effects include a reduction in blood pressure and bradycardia. There have been reports of convulsions (sometimes delayed in onset) and involuntary movements. Fever and pancreatitis have occurred very rarely. Discoloration of urine has been reported following prolonged use. Anaphylactoid reactions have been reported. Nausea, vomiting, and headache may occur during recovery.

Children given propofol for prolonged sedation have suffered severe reactions and there have been fatalities, see below.

See also Adverse Effects of General Anaesthetics, p.1779.

Incidence of adverse effects. In May 1989 the UK CSM commented on the 268 reports of adverse reactions to propofol that it had received since propofol was introduced to the UK market, during which period about 2 million patients had been anaesthetised with the drug.[1] These included reports of:

- seizures (37 cases, 13 in known epileptics)
- involuntary movements (16 cases)
- opisthotonus (10 cases)
- anaphylactic reactions (32 cases)
- cardiac arrest (13 cases)
- delayed recovery (8 cases)

In 1992 the CSM pointed to the risk of **delayed convulsions** with propofol and its particular importance for day-case surgery.[2] While the incidence of convulsions was low (170 reports), 31% of the reports described the convulsions as delayed.

In June 1992 the CSM commented on the dangers of propofol for the **sedation of children** in intensive care,[3] a use for which it is contra-indicated in the UK. (This prohibition does not apply to its use for the sedation of ventilated adults—but see below—or to propofol's use as an *anaesthetic* in children. Sedation in children undergoing surgical and diagnostic procedures is not contra-indicated but is an unlicensed use, and is not recommended.[4])

The CSM reported that there had been 66 reports worldwide of serious adverse effects in children sedated with propofol, and some fatalities had ensued. The children had suffered neurological, cardiac, and renal effects, hyperlipidaemia, hepatomegaly, and metabolic acidosis. Five deaths had been reported to the CSM. These 5 children[5] were aged 4 weeks to 6 years and doses of propofol ranged from 4 to 10.7 mg/kg per hour. They developed metabolic acidosis, bradyarrhythmia, and progressive myocardial failure resistant to treatment. The latter has been reported by others to be significantly associated with the use of long-term, **high-dose** propofol infusions.[6]

Similar adverse effects resulting in fatalities have also been reported in **adult** patients with head injuries who received high doses of propofol infusion (greater than 5 mg/kg per hour) for long-term sedation.[7] The CSM subsequently reminded prescribers that the recommended dose range for sedation (up to 4 mg/kg per hour) should not be exceeded.[8] There has also been a report of death in a patient with a closed head injury who received propofol infusion at an average dose of 4.1 mg/kg per hour.[9]

The Australian Adverse Drug Reactions Advisory Committee[10] stated in December 2004 that it had received a report of lactic acidosis and another of torsade de pointes in adult patients receiving lower doses of propofol infusion, 30 and 100 mg/hour, respectively, for about 24 hours.

1. CSM. Propofol—convulsions, anaphylaxis and delayed recovery from anaesthesia. *Current Problems 26* 1989. Also available at: http://www.mhra.gov.uk/home/idcplg?IdcService=GET_FILE&dDocName=CON2024442&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased (accessed 25/07/08)
2. CSM. Propofol and delayed convulsions. *Current Problems 35* 1992. Also available at: http://www.mhra.gov.uk/home/idcplg?IdcService=GET_FILE&dDocName=CON2024453&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased (accessed 25/07/08)
3. CSM. Serious adverse effects and fatalities in children associated with the use of propofol (Diprivan) for sedation. *Current Problems 34* 1992. Also available at: http://www.mhra.gov.uk/home/idcplg?IdcService=GET_FILE&dDocName=CON2024452&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased (accessed 25/07/08)
4. CSM/MCA. Clarification: propofol (Diprivan) infusion contraindication. *Current Problems* 2002; **28:** 6. Also available at: http://www.mhra.gov.uk/home/idcplg?IdcService=GET_FILE&dDocName=CON007454&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased (accessed 17/05/06)
5. Parke TJ, *et al.* Metabolic acidosis and fatal myocardial failure after propofol infusion in children: five case reports. *BMJ* 1992; **305:** 613–16.
6. Bray RJ. Propofol infusion syndrome in children. *Paediatr Anaesth* 1998; **8:** 491–9.
7. Cremer OL, *et al.* Long-term propofol infusion and cardiac failure in adult head-injured patients. *Lancet* 2001; **357:** 117–18.
8. CSM/MCA. Long term, high dose propofol (Diprivan) infusion. *Current Problems* 2001; **27:** 6. Also available at: http://www.mhra.gov.uk/home/idcplg?IdcService=GET_FILE&dDocName=CON007458&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased (accessed 17/05/06)
9. Ernest D, French C. Propofol infusion syndrome: report of an adult fatality. *Anaesth Intensive Care* 2003; **31:** 316–19.
10. Adverse Drug Reactions Advisory Committee (ADRAC). Propofol: danger of prolonged and high infusion rates in ICU. *Aust Adverse Drug React Bull* 2004; **23:** 23–4. Also available at: http://www.tga.gov.au/adr/aadrb/aadr0412.htm (accessed 14/12/04)

Effects on the cardiovascular system. The main effect of propofol on the cardiovascular system is a fall in both systolic and diastolic blood pressure of 20 to 30%. The compensatory tachycardia seen after a fall in arterial pressure with other intravenous anaesthetics is not usually seen with propofol. Propofol can also decrease systemic vascular resistance, cardiac output, myocardial blood flow, and myocardial oxygen consumption. Bradycardia can occur even in those premedicated with antimuscarinics, and can occasionally be profound and lead to asystole.[1] Despite these cardiodepressant effects propofol in doses of 1.5 to 2.5 mg/kg does not generally cause unacceptable haemodynamic changes in patients with a healthy cardiovascular system although concern has been expressed about its safety in cardiac surgical patients.[2]

Patients (especially children) given propofol for continuous sedation in intensive care units have suffered adverse cardiac reactions with bradyarrhythmia, progressive myocardial failure, and death—see above.

1. Tramèr MR, *et al.* Propofol and bradycardia: causation, frequency and severity. *Br J Anaesth* 1997; **78:** 642–51.
2. Ginsberg R, Lippmann M. Haemodynamic effects of propofol. *Br J Anaesth* 1994; **72:** 370–1.

Effects on lipids. Prolonged infusion of propofol may be associated with increases in serum triglycerides. In one patient this was believed to have been the cause of necrotising pancreatitis.[1]

1. Metkus AP, *et al.* A firefighter with pancreatitis. *Lancet* 1996; **348:** 1702.

Effects on mental function. There have been anecdotal reports[1] of disinhibited behaviour or sexually orientated hallucinations associated with the use of propofol, but a study using subanaesthetic doses found no evidence that propofol produced euphoria or other mood changes.[2]

1. Canaday BR. Amorous, disinhibited behaviour associated with propofol. *Clin Pharm* 1993; **12:** 449–51.
2. Whitehead C, *et al.* The subjective effects of low-dose propofol. *Br J Anaesth* 1994; **72** (suppl 1): 89.

Effects on the nervous system. See under Precautions, below.

Effects on respiration. See under Precautions, below.

Hypersensitivity. Anaphylactic reactions associated with polyethoxylated castor oil used in propofol preparations had prompted a change to the use of soya oil and egg phosphatide in the formulation. A group of workers have reported a patient who experienced anaphylactic shock when given the reformulated emulsion.[1] A possible case of anaphylaxis to this formulation has also been reported in a child with allergies to egg and peanut oil.[2]

1. Laxenaire MC, *et al.* Anaphylactic shock due to propofol. *Lancet* 1988; **ii:** 739–40.
2. Hofer KN, *et al.* Possible anaphylaxis after propofol in a child with food allergy. *Ann Pharmacother* 2003; **37:** 398–401.

Infection. Between June 1990 and February 1993 62 cases of postsurgical infections identified in 7 hospitals in the USA were attributed to improper handling of propofol.[1] The infusion was not prepared aseptically and the syringes used in the infusion pumps were reused for several patients. Propofol is formulated as a soybean fat emulsion and the injection contains no antimicrobial preservative although, in the USA, the formulation now contains the microbial-retarding agent, disodium edetate (see under Administration, below). However, either formulation still has the potential to support microbial growth. UK and US licensed product information now warns of the importance of aseptic technique in the preparation and use of propofol. Microbial multiplication did not appear to be clinically significant when propofol infusions were prepared and given using conventional aseptic techniques.[2]

1. Bennett SN, *et al.* Postoperative infections traced to contamination of an intravenous anesthetic, propofol. *N Engl J Med* 1995; **333:** 147–54.
2. Farrington M, *et al.* Do infusions of midazolam and propofol pose an infection risk to critically ill patients? *Br J Anaesth* 1994; **72:** 415–17.

Malignant hyperthermia. From an *in-vitro* study it was concluded that propofol does not trigger malignant hyperthermia.[1] There is a report of the safe use of propofol in 19 patients considered susceptible to malignant hyperthermia.[2]

1. Denborough M, Hopkinson KC. Propofol and malignant hyperpyrexia. *Lancet* 1988; **i:** 191.
2. Harrison GG. Propofol in malignant hyperthermia. *Lancet* 1991; **337:** 503.

Pain on injection. Product information suggests the use of lidocaine or alfentanil to reduce the pain associated with injection of conventional formulations of propofol (see Administration, below); alternatively, the larger veins in the forearm and antecubital fossa can be used. Studies indicate that metoclopramide[1] might also be effective. The pain is thought to be caused by the proportion of the propofol dose that is present in the aqueous rather than the oily phase of the emulsion. It has been suggested[2] that the analgesic effect of lidocaine, and possibly metoclopramide, is due to a pH-lowering effect, causing more propofol to be present in the oily phase, but a study show-