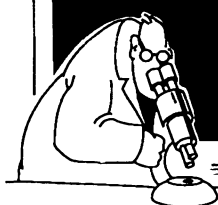


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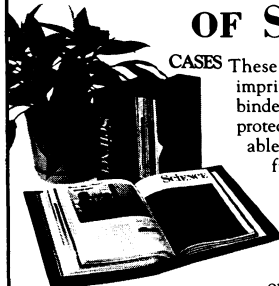
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antidote for MH; (ii) MH patient-physician organizations that educated medical personnel to recognize and treat this rarely occurring disease; and (iii) biomedical engineers who created new monitoring devices to permit the early detection of the hypermetabolic state that characterizes acute MH.

Much additional work remains to be done before the understanding of the molecular biology of MH is sufficient to permit development of improved diagnostic tests. No doubt, such tests will help reduce MH morbidity and mortality rates even further in the future.

Marilyn Green Larach
 Director,

North American Malignant Hyperthermia Registry, and
 Department of Anesthesia,
 College of Medicine,
 Pennsylvania State University,
 Hershey, PA 17033

REFERENCES

1. M. E. Kolb, M. L. Horne, R. Martz, *Anesthesiology* 56, 254 (1982).

Chemical Weapons Disposal

The article "Piecemeal rescue for Soviet science" by David P. Hamilton (*News & Comment*, 27 Mar., p. 1632) mentions a suggestion by scientists from a former Soviet weapons lab to use nuclear explosives to destroy chemical weapon stockpiles. The article states that the suggestion met with a "very mixed response" from the Americans.

One could note that the U.S. government has also considered this method. The Defense Nuclear Agency completed a study in 1982 (1) which suggested that there were a number of advantages to be gained by using a nuclear blast to destroy chemical weapons in an underground cavity. For example, the weapons would require no preparation or disassembly, and there would be no residue requiring disposal. This idea, along with other novel concepts for the disposal of the chemical stockpile, was rejected by the Army in favor of reverse assembly-incineration.

David N. Clark
 Battelle,
 11650 Stark Road,
 Tooele, UT 84074

REFERENCES

1. R. E. Duff, "The feasibility of chemical munition disposal using nuclear explosions" (Report SSS-R-83-5780, Defense Nuclear Agency, Washington, DC, 1982).

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