

CLINICAL "SNIPPETS"

Adrenal suppression following a single dose of etomidate for rapid sequence induction: A prospective randomized study.

Hildreth AN, Mejia VA, Maxwell RA, et al:

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Overview: Etomidate has been linked to subsequent adrenocortical insufficiency in non-trauma patients. In this study, 30 multiple-trauma patients were randomized to either receive etomidate and succinylcholine, or a combination of fentanyl and midazolam with succinylcholine for Rapid Sequence Induction (RSI).

Conclusions: There was chemical evidence that the use of etomidate for RSI in trauma patients led to adrenocortical insufficiency. The authors state that: "In light of our study, we recommend that other drugs should be used as first-line agents for RSI in trauma patients."