All three studies confirm the acceptability of atracurium for ophthalmic surgery.

In terms of purity of pharmacodynamic study, Dr Maharaj and colleagues' work is the most commendable. However, in the light of our study we feel that a more important fact should not be overlooked. The patient for whom changes in intraocular pressure are of most importance is the patient who has suffered a perforating eye injury. In this patient any change in IOP may cause further extrusion of intraocular contents and may critically jeopardise the eye. Our study, and that of Tattersall, Manus, and Jackson showed that, while atracurium is an acceptable drug for use in ophthalmic surgery, the considerable rise in IOP which results from laryngoscopy and tracheal intubation is of much greater significance. Until such time as we have an anaesthetic technique which is both rapid and unaccompanied by autonomic nervous overactivity, the perforated eye will remain a danger. Until this time, minor

differences such as those demonstrated between atracurium, pancuronium, and fazadinium pale into insignificance.

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Obituary

A G Palin, BM, BCL, FRCS, FRCSEd

Mr A G Palin, formerly consultant ophthalmologist at the Bristol Eye Hospital, died on 26 January 1986 after a long illness patiently borne.

Anthony Palin graduated from Oxford and St Thomas's Hospital Medical School in 1934. He was appointed consultant ophthalmologist at Bristol in 1937 and served in the Royal Air Force during the war. On his return to Bristol until his retirement in 1972 he played a major part in establishing the Eye Hospital as one of the best units outside London. For many of these years he was senior surgeon in the days when this position carried the onerous duties of

being chairman, head of the university department, and representative on many committees. Tony had no difficulty in carrying out these functions with aplomb, at the same time maintaining his reputation as a first class clinician. One mark of this distinction was the conferring of an honorary fellowship by the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1970. There are many younger ophthalmologists, both in the UK and in Australia, who will remember his warm friendship and wise teaching.

Tony is survived by his wife Bobby, and two sons. NLD