

Discoveries of Distinction

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Pharmacokinetics and Analgesic Properties of Inhaled Remifentanyl

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Patients could benefit from an inhaled opioid for pain management in a clinical setting. We investigated the bioavailability and efficacy of inhaled remifentanyl in rats. We concluded that rapid profound analgesia was achieved, and remifentanyl and metabolites were measurable in rat blood following pulmonary exposure to remifentanyl. We anticipate that this will have far reaching effects in pain management,

allowing for noninvasive use of a rapidly acting opioid. Possible uses for an inhaled opioid include dressing changes, placement of pediatric intravenous lines, block placement, and other potentially painful procedures of short duration

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The Non-Compete Clause and the CRNA: An Assessment of Knowledge, Perception, and Experience

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Mounting economic pressures and the challenge to maintain competitive advantage have resulted in many healthcare entities to require their practitioners to enter into restrictive covenants such as non-compete clauses (NCCs). Many student nurse anesthetists and practicing certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) are unaware of the non-compete clause in employee contracts. CRNAs are often surprised by the implication of signing a non-compete clause could have on their future abilities to successfully advocate for themselves and their profession, in order to best meet the needs of the population they serve. This study was completed using an anon-

ymous, Web-based questionnaire distributed to students and CRNAs nationwide and demonstrated a significant knowledge gap in the nurse anesthesia community surrounding the NCC.

Of the 242 practicing CRNAs, 147 (60.7%) were employed without a NCC and 9.1% of practicing CRNAs were unaware if they had such provision in their contract for employment. The knowledge level of the nurse anesthetist respondents was low (average score of 55.3%) with student knowledge level of the NCC being the lowest at 23.3%. Student nurse anesthetists who enter the healthcare market are at a disadvantage due to low levels of awareness concern-

ing such provisions. By understanding the prevalence and impact of non-compete clauses for CRNAs, educational programs as well as resources concerning the implication of the non-compete clause should be developed to better prepare CRNAs to make knowledgeable decisions on signing such provisions for employment. Business-minded CRNAs who have practical knowledge of key terms, concepts, and legal implications of NCCs are in better position to bargain and negotiate against objectionable provisions.

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