



# General anesthetics

**Zeynep Ates-Alagoz, Ph.D**

*Ankara University, Faculty of Pharmacy  
Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry*



# Background

- **General anesthesia was absent until the mid-1800's**
- **William Morton** administered ether to a patient having a neck tumor removed at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, in October 1846.
- The discovery of the **diethyl ether** as general anesthesia was the result of a search for means of eliminating a patient's pain perception and responses to painful stimuli.



# What are General Anesthetics?

- A drug that brings about a reversible loss of consciousness
- generally administered by an anesthesiologist in order to induce or maintain general anesthesia to facilitate surgery.



# General Anaesthesia (GA)

- A variety of drugs are given to the patient that have different effects with the overall aim of ensuring unconsciousness, amnesia and analgesia.



# Stages of general anesthesia

- **Stage I:** analgesia and sedation
- **Stage II:** excitation
- **Stage III:** anesthesia for surgery
- **Stage IV:** intoxication, respiratory arrest



# MAC (minimum alveolar concentration)

- A measure of potency of inhaled anesthetics
- MAC is the concentration necessary to prevent responding in 50% of population.



# Pharmacokinetics of Inhaled Anesthetics

1. Amount that reaches the brain

Indicated by oil:gas ratio (lipid solubility)

2. Solubility of gas into blood

The lower the blood:gas ratio, the more anesthetics will arrive at the brain



# Features of ideal anesthetic

- Not disturbing smell
- Fast acting
- Low solubility in blood- fast transport to brain
- Stable when stored, not reacting with other chemicals
- Non- flammable, non- explosive
- Low metabolism in body, fast elimination, no accumulative effect
- No depressing effect on circulatory and respiratory systems



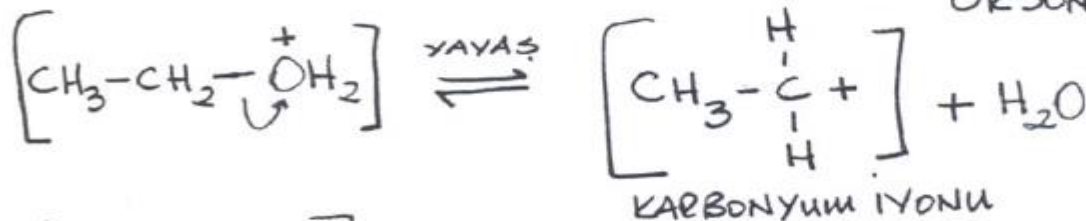
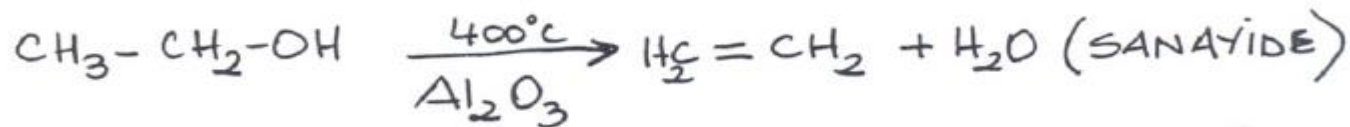
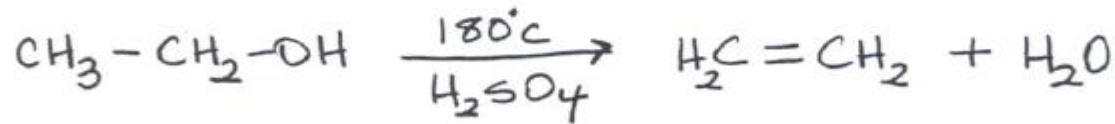


# Gas Inhalation Anesthetics

## -Hydrocarbons

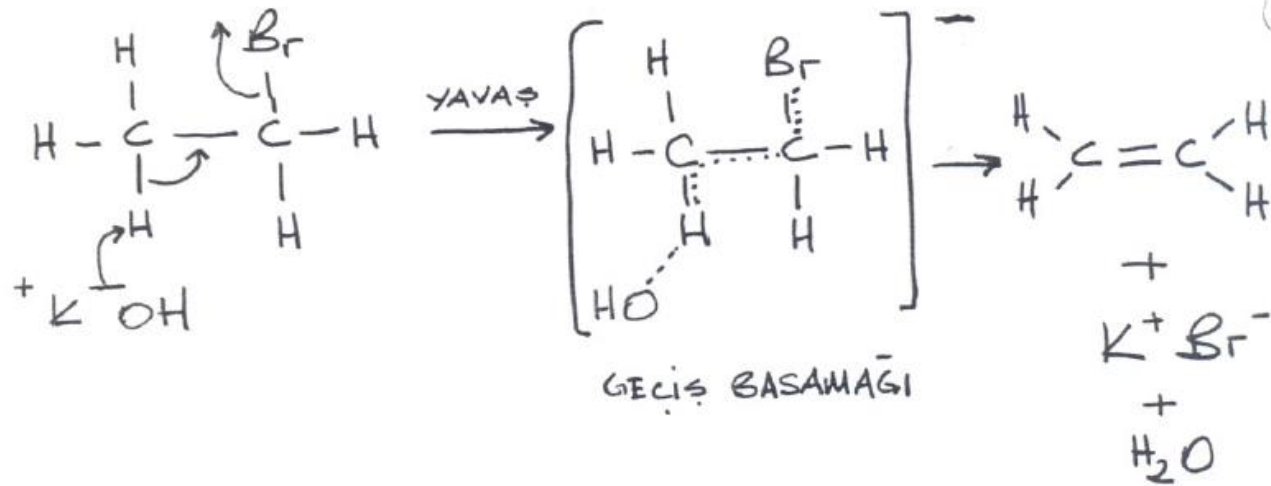
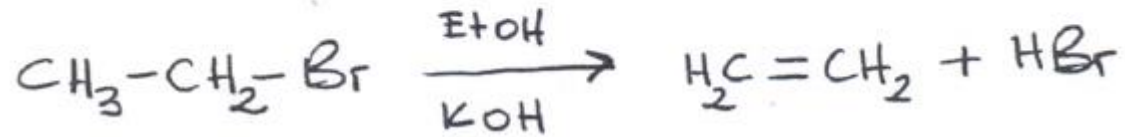
### Ethylene (CH<sub>2</sub>=CH<sub>2</sub>);

#### 1) ETİL ALKOLÜN DEHİDRATASYONU

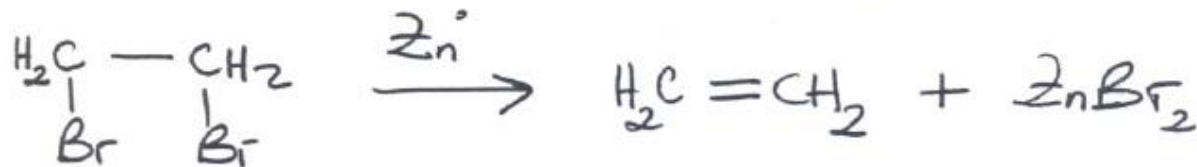




## 2) ETİL BROMÜRÜN DEHİDROHALOJENASYONU



## 3) ÇİNKÜ ARACILIĞI İLE DEHALOJENASYON



It's explosive with air.

Despite its low side effects, it has lost its significance in recent years due to its explosive nature and low activity.



# Cyclopropane

- Although air is explosive, it is a stronger anesthetic compound than ethylene (5 times stronger narcotics)
- Elimination is slow.
- Reaction of dibromopropane with zinc gives cyclopropane

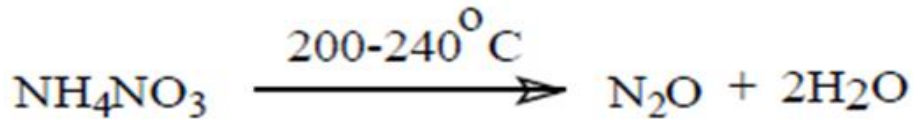




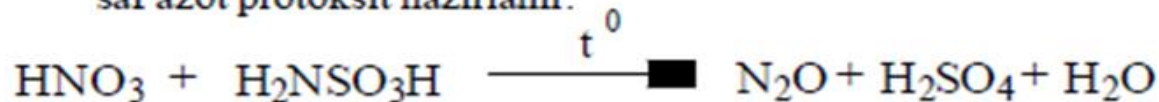
# Nitrous Oxide

- widely used
- Potent analgesic
- Produce a light anesthesia
- Do not depress the respiration/vasomotor center
- Used ad adjunct to supplement other inhalationals

Amonyum nitratın yüksek derecede ısıtılmasıyla elde edilir.



Nitrik asitin aminosülfonik asit ile sıcakta reaksiyona sokulmasıyla daha saf azot protoksit hazırlanır.



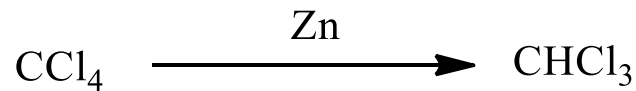


# Volatile liquid inhalation anesthetics

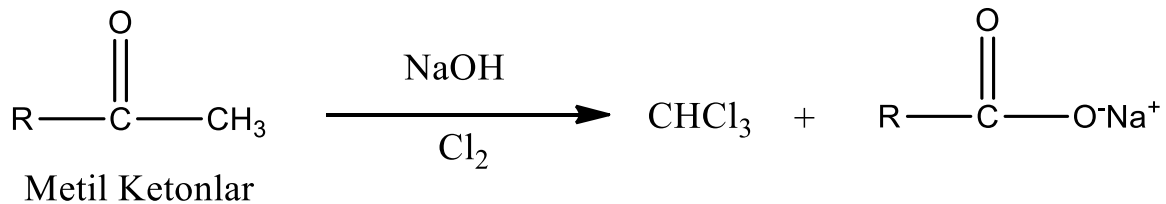
- **Halogenated hydrocarbons**

## Chloroform (Trichloromethane);

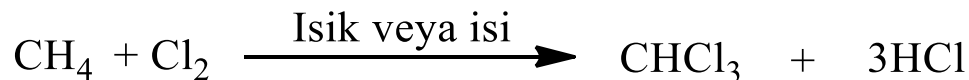
- Synthesized by reduction of carbon tetrachloride;



- Synthesized by Haloform reaction;



- Through photochemical halogenation;





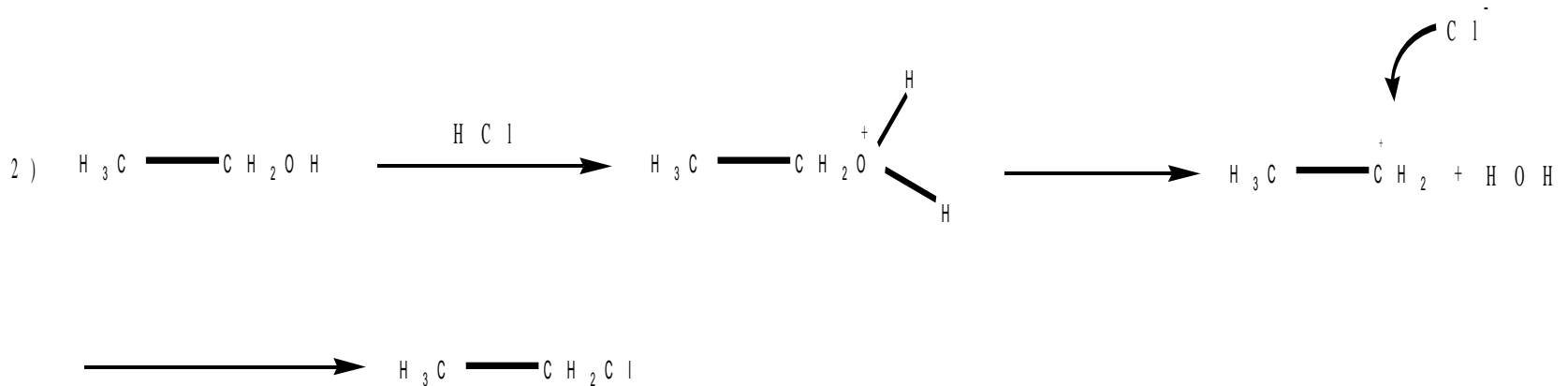
- It is the cheapest and easiest component.
- Chloroform is metabolized by oxidation in the body and transforms into phosgene. Phosgene is a lethal and very toxic gas. For this reason, it is not currently used as an anesthetic.



# Ethyl Chloride (Chloroethane)

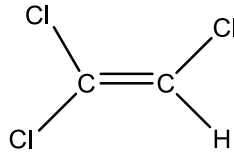
- It has no use today because it has the side effects more than chloroform.

## Synthesis;

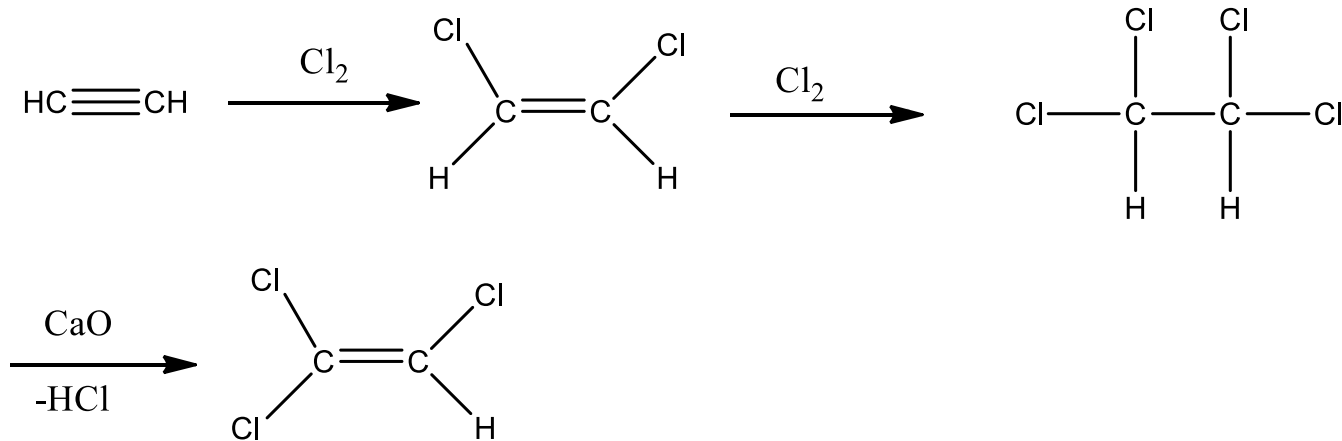




# TRICHLORETHYLENE (1,1,2-trichloroethylene)



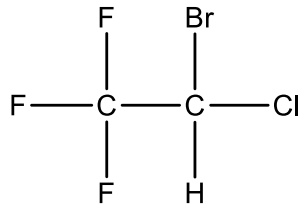
- Not enough muscular relaxation for surgical intervention.
- Used in short-term small operations for analgesic effect .
- Synthesized by chlorine addition to acetylene







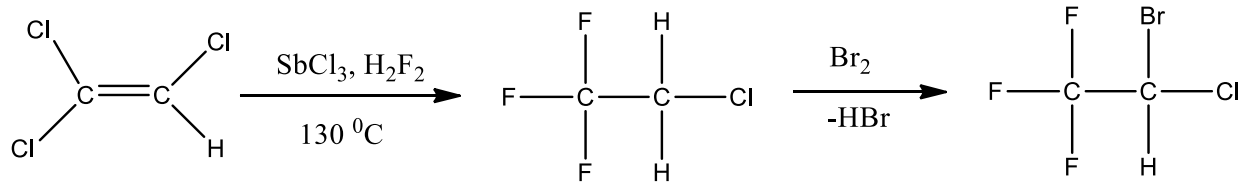
# Halothane



2- bromo-2-chloro-1,1,1-trifluoro ethane

- It is used with nitrogen protoxide because the analgesic effect is not good.
- Used for many years with good effect
- First non-flamable volatile fluid anesthetic
- MAC high
- Depression of circulatory system
- May destroy liver
- Nowadays used only in pediatric anesthesia

## Synthesis;





# Ether and Halogenated Ethers

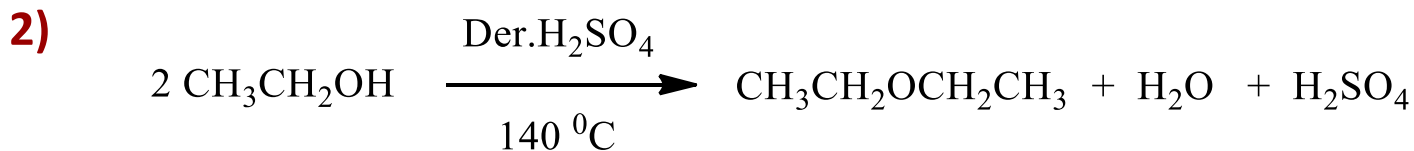
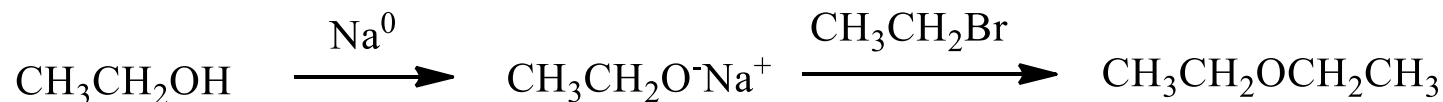
## Ether (Diethylether);



- It flames easily, the mixture with air explodes.
- Good analgesic and muscle relaxant properties.

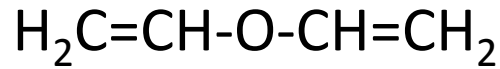
## Synthesis;

### 1) Williamson Synthesis :

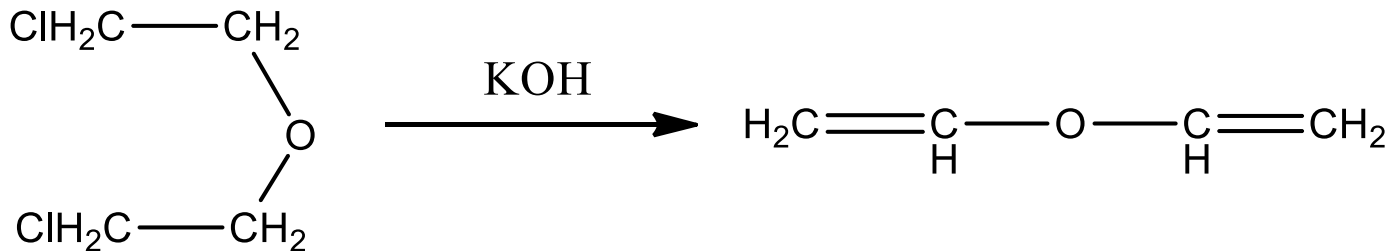
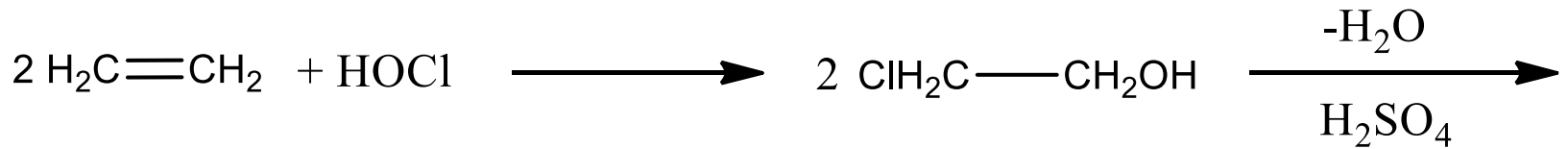




# Divinyl ether (Divinyl Oxide, Vinethene®)



## Synthesis;



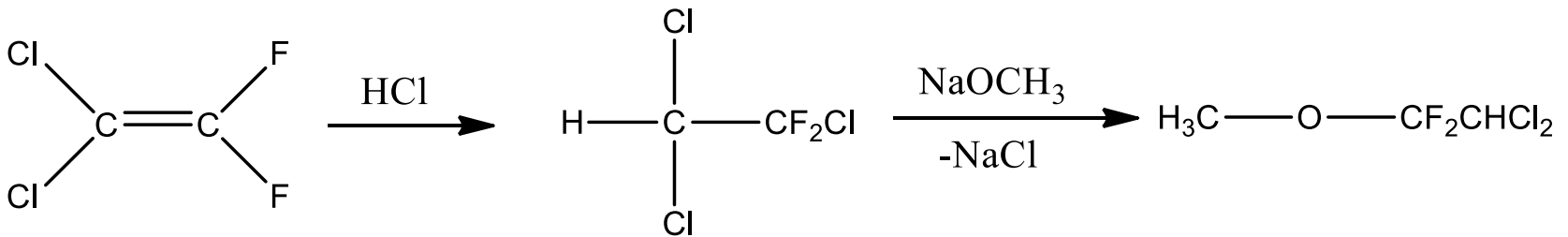


# Metoxiflurane (Penthrane)



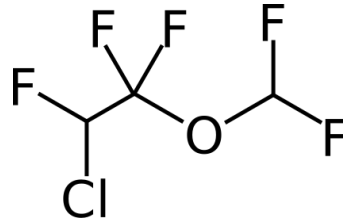
2,2-Dichloro-1,1-difluoroethyl methyl ether

- It's the most powerful general anesthetic.
- It is not explosive and flammable.
- Used with N<sub>2</sub>O.
- It is hepatotoxic in the liver because the metabolic end result with F<sup>-</sup> ion.

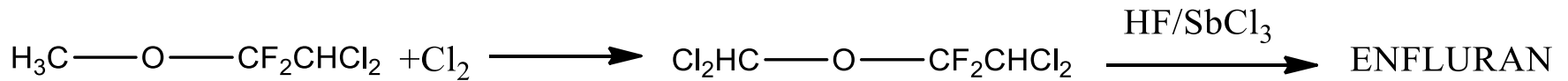




# Enflurane

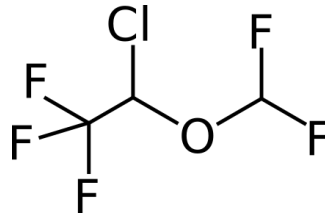


- 2-Chloro-1,1,2-trifluoroethyl difluoromethyl ether
- Rapid, smooth induction and maintenance
  - 2-10% metabolized in liver

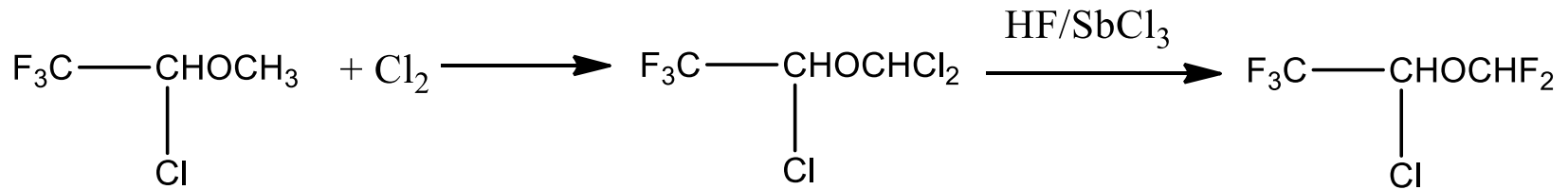


Chlorination of methoxyflurane, than reaction of 1,1,2-trifluoro-2-chloro-1-difluoromethoxyethane with antimony trichloride gives the Enflurane

# Isoflurane



(2-chloro-2-(difluoromethoxy)-1,1,1-trifluoro-ethane)

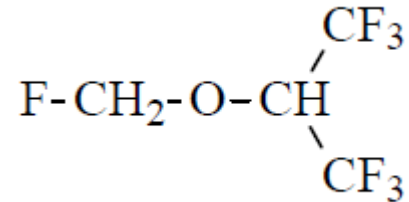


The chlorination of 1-chloro-2,2,2-trifluoroethyl methyl ether is followed by the reaction with hydrofluoric acid in the presence of antimony trichloride.

- smooth and rapid induction and recovery
- very little metabolism (0.2%)
- no reports of hepatotoxicity or renotoxicity

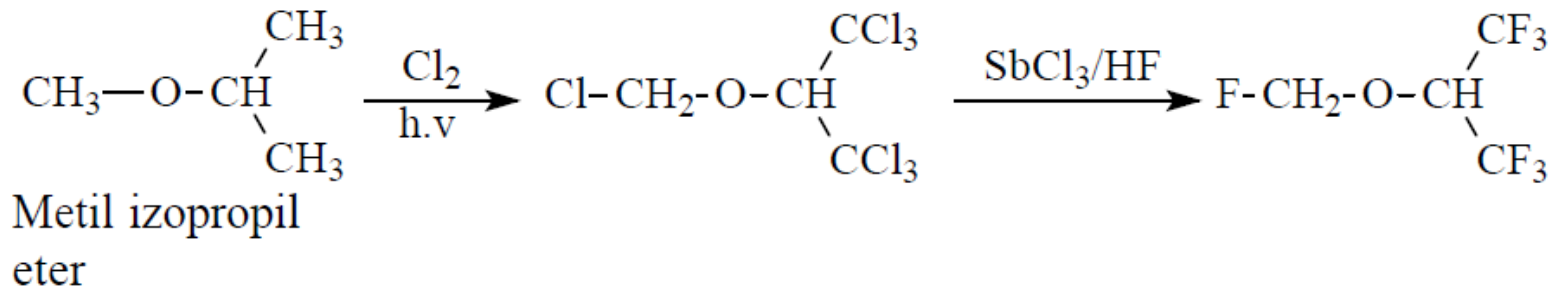


# Sevoflurane



1- (trifluoromethyl) -2,2,2-trifluoroethyl fluoromethyl ether

- The methyl isopropyl ether is firstly chlorinated and then reacted with hydrofluoric acid in the presence of antimony trichloride.



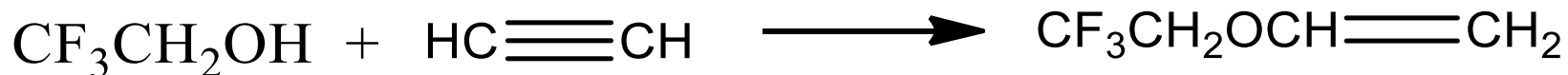


# Fluoroxene (Fluoromar<sup>®</sup>)



2,2,2-Trifluoroethyl vinyl ether

- It is synthesized from 2,2,2-trifluoroethanol and acetylene in a basic medium under pressure.







# Physical and Chemical Properties of Inhaled Anesthetics

- Although halogenations of hydrocarbons and ethers increase anesthetic potency, it also increase the potential for inducing cardiac arrhythmias in the following order  $F < Cl < Br$ .
- Ethers that have an asymmetric halogenated carbon tend to be good anesthetics.
- Halogenated methyl ethyl ethers are more stable, are more potent, and have better clinical profile than halogenated diethyl ethers.
- Fluorination decrease flammability and increase stability of adjacent halogenated carbons.
- The presence of double bonds tends to increase chemical reactivity and toxicity.



# Intravenous Anesthetics

- Most exert their actions by potentiating GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor
- GABAergic actions may be similar to those of volatile anesthetics, but act at different sites on receptor



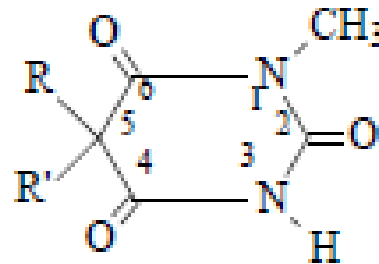
# Organ Effects

- Most decrease cerebral metabolism and intracranial pressure
- Most cause respiratory depression
- May cause apnea after induction of anesthesia

## Cardiovascular Effects

- Barbiturates, benzodiazepines and propofol cause cardiovascular depression.

# Barbiturates

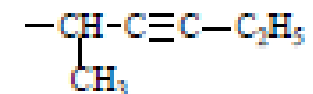


**R**

**R<sup>1</sup>**

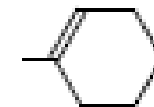
## Metohexital

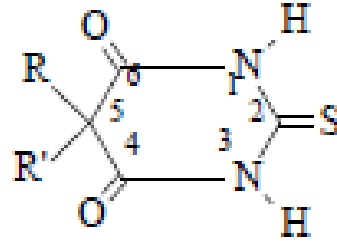
5-Alлил-5-(1-метил-2-пентинил)-  
1-метилбарбитүрик асид



## Hekzobarbital

5-Metil-5-siklohekzenil-  
1-метилбарбитүрик асид





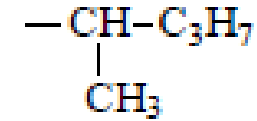
## Tiyopental

5-Etil-5-(1-metilbutil)-  
2-tiyobarbitürik asit

**R**

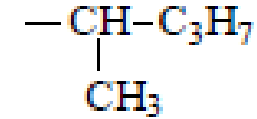


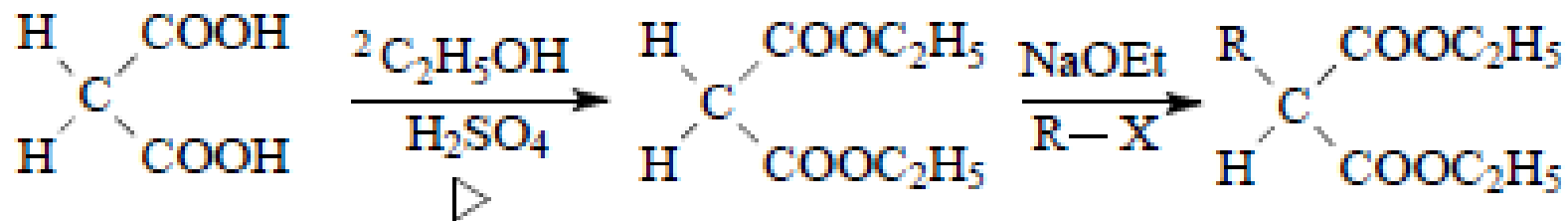
**R<sup>1</sup>**



## Tiyamilal

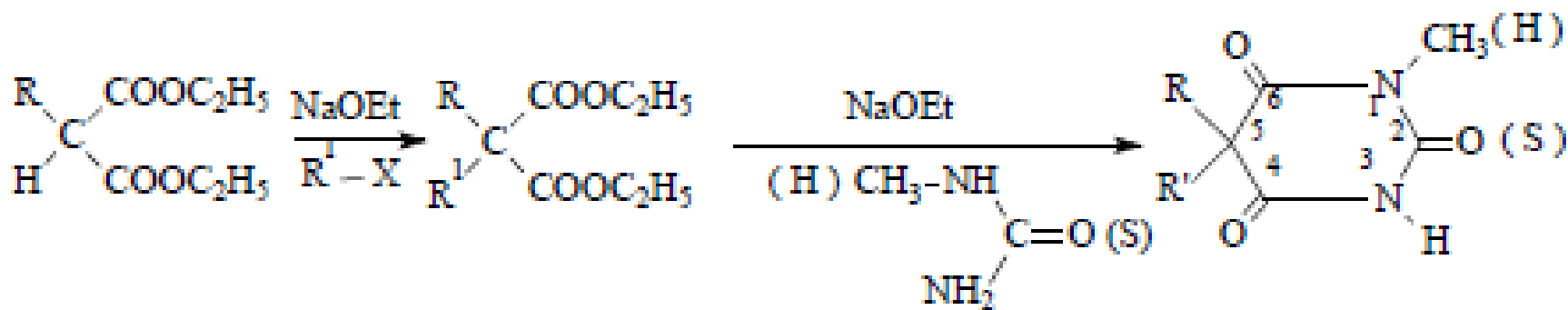
5-Allil-5-(1-metilbutil)-  
2-tiyobarbitürik asit





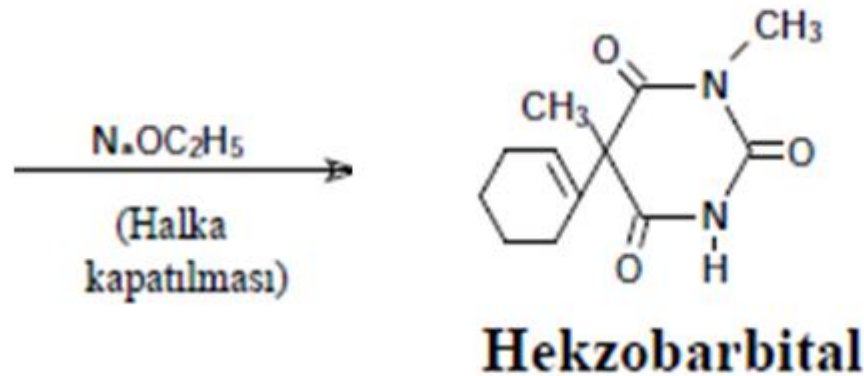
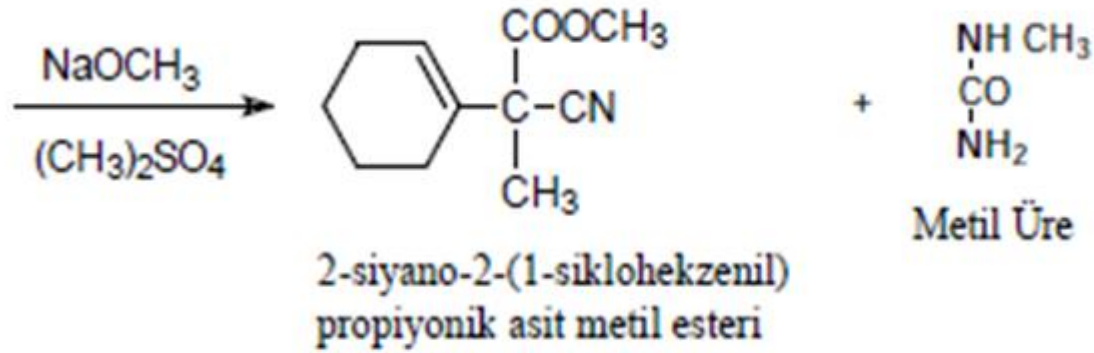
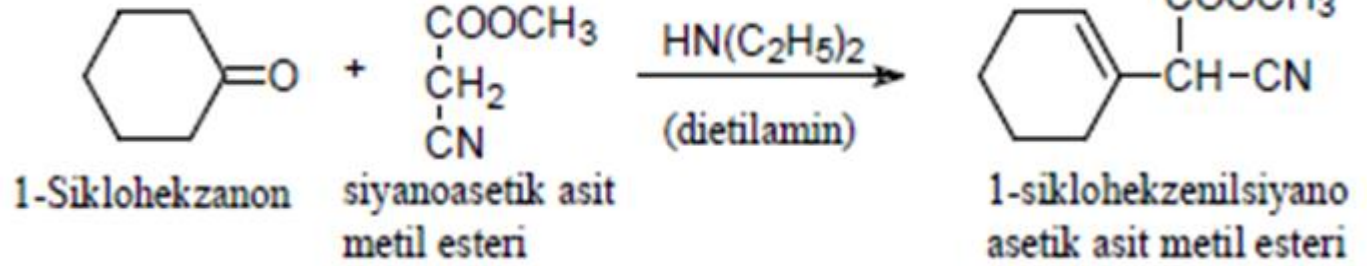
Malonik Asit

Dietilmalonat



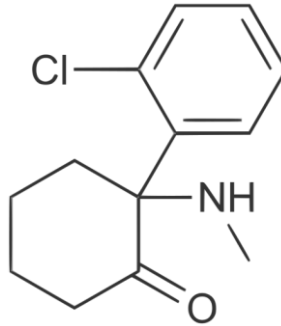
Metil Üre  
veya  
Tiyo Üre

Metoheksital  
Tiyopental  
Tiyamilal



# Cyclohexanones

## Ketamine

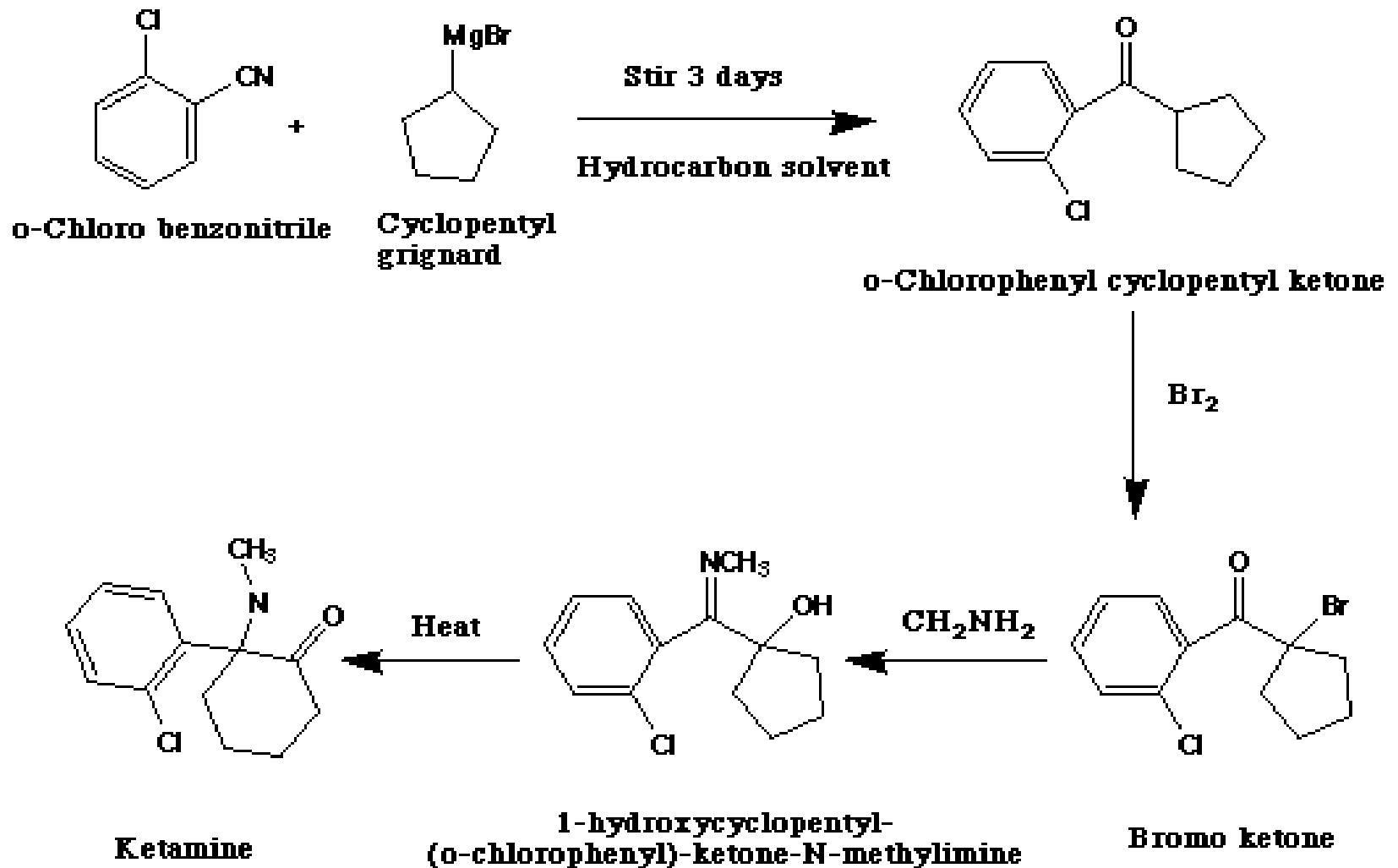


*(RS)*-2-(2-Chlorophenyl)-2-(methylamino)cyclohexanone

- NMDA Receptor Antagonist
- usually stimulate rather than depress the circulatory system.
- It is a solid general anesthetic compound that can be administered intravenously and intramuscularly.
- strong analgesic effect
- the effect is observed 10-15 minutes after administration of the drug



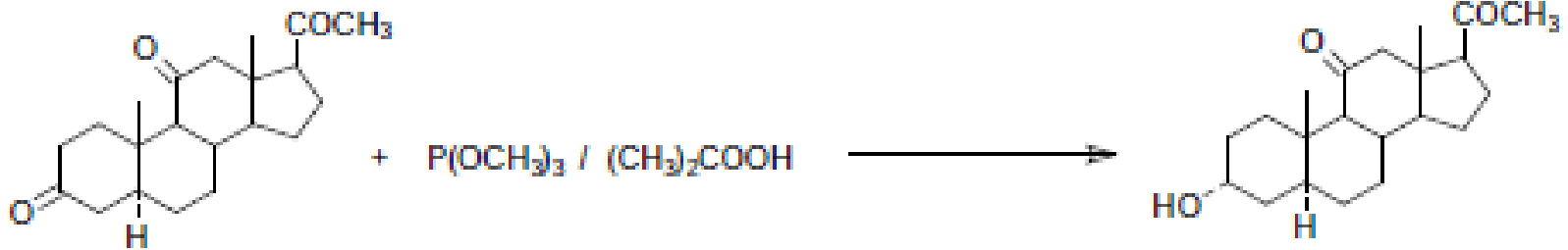
## Synthesis of Ketamine



# Steroids

## Alphaxalone;

3  $\alpha$  -Hydroxy-5  $\alpha$  -pregnane-11,20-dione



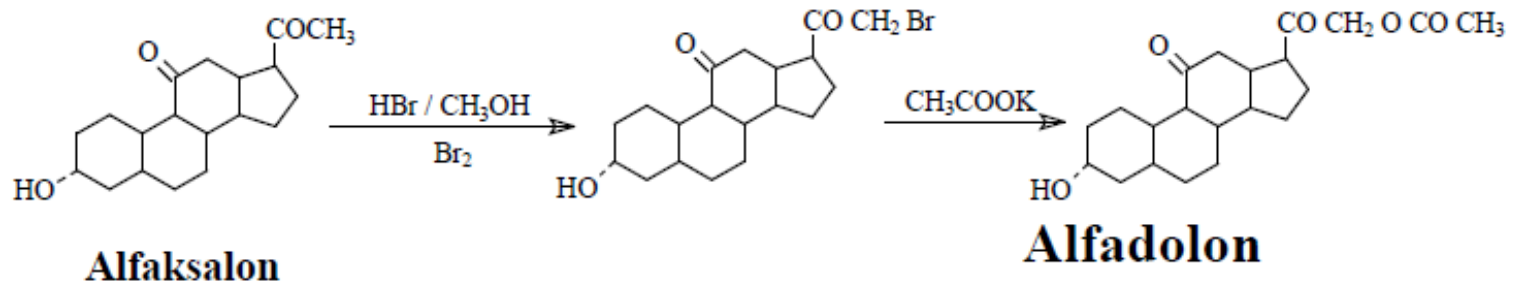
3,11,20-triokso-5 $\alpha$ -  
pregnanın  
trimetilfosfit

**Alfaksalon**

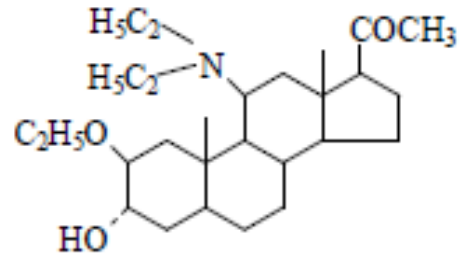
# Alphadolone

## 3 $\alpha$ ,21-Dihydroxy-5 $\alpha$ -pregnane-11,20-dione-21-acetate

- Synthesized by the reaction of the alphaxalone with bromine followed by potassium acetate.



# Minaxolone



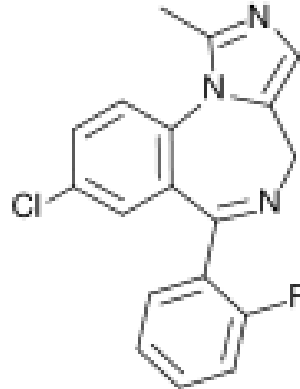
3  $\alpha$  -hydroxy-2-ethoxy-11-diethylaminopregnan-20-one



# Benzodiazepines

- Although not known as anesthetic compounds, some benzodiazepines are used in premedication.
- Diazepam,
- flurazepam and
- Midazolam is the most commonly used compound in anesthesia.

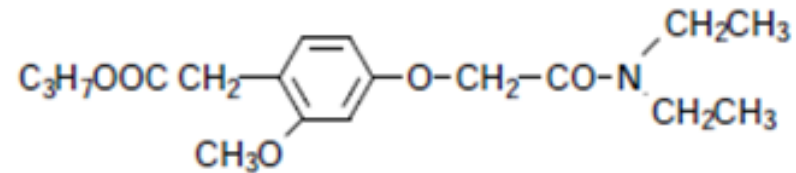
# MİDAZOLAM (DORMICUM)<sup>®</sup> :



- Benzodiazepine derivative.
- Provides rapid induction.
- No analgesic effect.
- It is used for sedation in the patient before surgery and endoscopy.

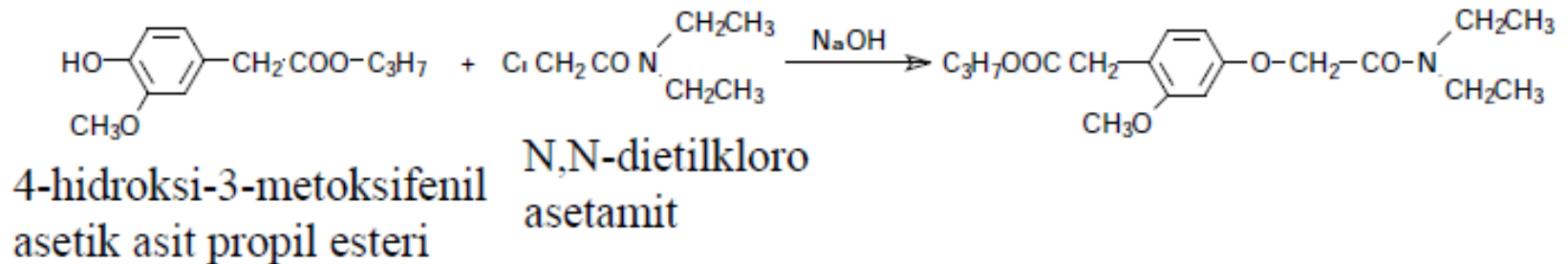
# Others

- Propanidid

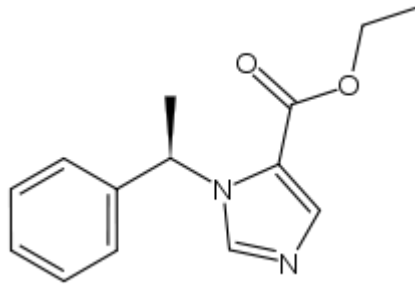


4- [2- (Diethylamino) -2-oxoethoxy] -3-methoxyphenyl acetic acid propyl ester

## Synthesis;



# Etomidate



1- (1-Phenylethyl) -1H-imidazole-5-carboxylic acid ethyl ester

- Marketed as Amidate
- A short-acting intravenous anaesthetic agent used for the induction of general anaesthesia and sedation.
- The effect starts quickly and ends quickly.
- No analgesic effect.
- It is used in combination with fentanyl or similar drugs because it causes involuntary contractions.

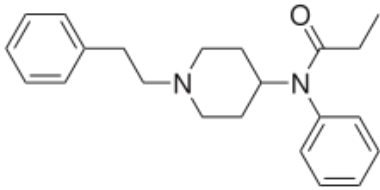




# SHORT-ACTING OPIOIDS

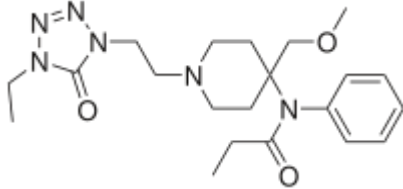
- They are generally used for induction.
- They can be used for preanesthetic medication or for the management of surgical anesthesia.

## Fentanyl;



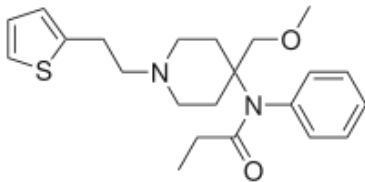
*N*-(1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl)-*N*-phenylpropanamide

## Alfentanyl ;



*N*-{1-[2-(4-ethyl-5-oxo-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-1,2,3,4-tetrazol-1-yl)ethyl]-4-(methoxymethyl)piperidin-4-yl}-*N*-phenylpropanamide

## Sufentanyl;



*N*-[4-(methoxymethyl)-1-(2-thiophen-2-ylethyl)-4-piperidyl]-*N*-phenylpropanamide



# General anesthesia

- Induction
- Maintenance



# Maintenance

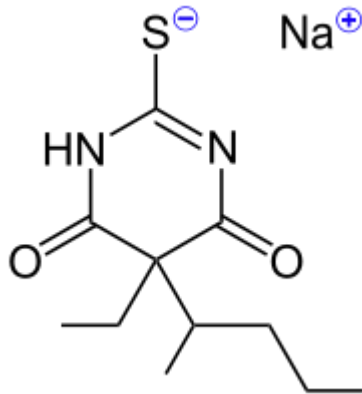
- In order to prolong anaesthesia for the required duration
- breathe to a carefully controlled mixture of oxygen, nitrous oxide, and a volatile anaesthetic agent
- transferred to the patient's brain via the lungs and the bloodstream, and the patient remains unconscious
- Inhaled agents are supplemented by intravenous anaesthetics, such as opioids (usually fentanyl or morphine)



# Intravenous Induction Agents

- Used in combination with Inhaled anesthetics to:
  - Supplement general anesthesia
  - Maintain general anesthesia
  - Provide sedation
  - Control blood pressure
  - Protect the brain
  
- Propofol
- Thiopental sodium

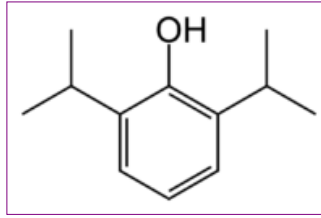
# Thiopental sodium



*RS*)-[5-ethyl-4,6-dioxo-5-(pentane-2-yl)-1,4,5,6-tetrahydropyrimidine-2-yl]sulfanid sodyum

- rapid onset (20 sec)
- short-acting
- oil:water ratio is so high /reaches the brain so quickly
- It is used with nitrogen protoxide because the analgesic effect is not good.

# Propofol



2,6-bis(propan-2-yl)phenol

- Short-acting agent used for the induction
- maintenance of GA and sedation
- Onset within one minute of injection



# Mechanism of Propofol

- Action of anesthetics on the GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor
  - Binding of anesthetics to specific sites on the receptor protein
- Parenteral anesthetic
  - Small, hydrophobic, substituted aromatic or heterocyclic compound
- Propofol partitions into lipophilic tissues of the brain and spinal cord
  - Produces anesthesia within a single circulation time



# Metabolism and Toxicity

- Propofol is extensively metabolized
  - 88% of an administered dose appearing in the urine
- Eliminated by the hepatic conjugation of the inactive glucuronide metabolites which are excreted by the kidney