ISCHEMIC AND ANESTHETIC PRECONDITIONING

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Myocardial ischemia initiates a range of cellular events, which are initially mild and become progressively damaging with increasing duration of ischemia. The damage caused during ischemia is called “ischemic injury”. Because myocardial ischemia reperfusion injury can lead to severe complications, measures to minimize myocardial damage have been an important target of research. Anesthetics may provide protection so, consequently, a better understanding of the role of anesthetics in the prevention of myocardial injury may provide anesthesiologists with strategies to improve outcome. Among the anesthetics that have been investigated for offering myocardial protection against ischemia are inhalational anesthetics, opioids, and intravenous anesthetics. This presentation aims at summarizing the current concepts in myocardial protection and the possible protective effects of anesthetic agents in patients at risk of developing myocardial ischemia.