

## Dopamine Dosing Dilemma

With reference to the formula for calculation of dopamine rates(1). Gupta and Tuli have made the American Heart Association (AHA) formula unnecessarily complicated and their own apparently simple. That may actually not be the case.

The AHA states that' you multiply the weight of the child in kilograms by 6, and you add that much dopamine (in milligrams) to 100 ml infusing fluid. Once this solution is ready, you give as many microdrops per minute as your required dopamine rate in  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}/\text{minute}$ , e.g., a 10 kg child-add  $10 \times 6 = 60$  mg of dopamine to 100 ml of solution. If you want to give  $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}/\text{minute}$ , give 5 microdrops per minute

and if you want to give  $10 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}/\text{minute}$ , give 10 microdrops per minute. So, in the end, it is merely getting used to one formula or another. Undoubtedly, Gupta and Tuli have put forward an easy formula, but the AHA formula too, is not any more difficult. Furthermore, in Gupta and Tuli's formula, a single decimal wrongly placed would mean 10 times the wrong dose!!

**M.U. Sanklecha,  
K. Raghavan,  
M.N. Mehta**

*Department of Pediatrics,  
L.T.M. Medical College and Hospital,  
Sion, Bombay 400 022*

### REFERENCE

1. Gupta P, Tuli V. Dopamine infusion: A simple formula. *Indian Pediatr* 1994,31:868.