

Table 8: Quick Reference Guide to Commonly Used Anesthetic Drugs

Drug	Class	Common Use	Mechanism	Side Effects
Propofol	Sedative hypnotic	Induction, maintenance, MAC	Enhances GABA transmission	Decreased BP due to decreased SVR
Midazolam	Benzodiazepine	Anxiolysis	Enhances GABA transmission	Decreased BP due to decreased SVR
Fentanyl	Opiate	Pain control	Opiate receptor agonist	Nausea, respiratory depression
Hydromorphone	Opiate	Pain control	Opiate receptor agonist	Nausea, respiratory depression
Succinylcholine	Depolarizing muscle relaxant	Muscle paralysis	Depolarizes neuro-muscular junction	Malignant hyperthermia, potassium release
Vecuronium	Nondepolarizing muscle relaxant	Muscle paralysis	Competitive blockade at neuro-muscular junction	Muscle paralysis
Rocuronium	Nondepolarizing muscle relaxant	Muscle paralysis	Competitive blockade at neuro-muscular junction	Muscle paralysis
Cisatracurium	Nondepolarizing muscle relaxant	Muscle paralysis	Competitive blockade at neuro-muscular junction	Muscle paralysis
Sevoflurane	Volatile anesthetic	Maintenance of anesthesia	Effect spontaneous neuronal activity and metabolism	Malignant hyperthermia, decreased BP
Desflurane	Volatile anesthetic	Maintenance of anesthesia	Effect spontaneous neuronal activity and metabolism	Malignant hyperthermia, decreased BP
Isoflurane	Volatile anesthetic	Maintenance of anesthesia	Effect spontaneous neuronal activity and metabolism	Malignant hyperthermia, decreased BP

BP = blood pressure; GABA = γ -aminobutyric acid; MAC = monitored anesthesia care; SVR = systemic vascular resistance.
 Data from White and Romero;¹⁰ Rapp et al.;¹¹ Coda;¹² Donati and Bevan;¹³ and Ebert.¹⁴