

U. C. Doctors Tell Success In Use of New Sleep Drug

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NEW YORK, May 27.—(AP) — One shot of a new kind of sleep drug promises to make anesthesia safer and easier in surgery.

The drug, viadril, is related to hormones, but doesn't have any of the effects on glands which hormones have.

It induces sleep by itself, but is best used for deep anesthesia in combination with nitrous oxide or laughing gas, with ether or with other customary anesthetics, said scientists of Chas. Pfizer & Co., Inc., Brooklyn, N. Y.

They described the drug today coincidentally with reports of its use on nearly 200 human patients. The human trials were reported to a medical meeting in

Geneva, Switzerland, by Drs. Gilbert S. Gordan Jr., Frank J. Murphy, Neri P. Gaudagni, and Frank De Bon, University of California School of Medicine.

The California physicians said it is the first successful use as an anesthetic of a drug belonging to the family of chemicals known as steroids, which includes hormones. It may be the forerunner of still better sleep-inducing drugs.

A number of drugs are used as first or basic sleep-inducers, usually in a patient's hospital room. Later other anesthetics are given to deepen and control his sleep.

The drug was developed by Drs. G. D. Laubach, S.Y. P'An, and H. W. Rudel of the Brooklyn firm.