

Abridged WSJ letter on colonoscopy

Members of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) are concerned about patient safety. The public needs to know that propofol is a potent anesthetic drug that can produce varying and sometimes unpredictable levels of sedation, including general anesthesia with loss of breathing control. Only those trained to administer anesthesia are qualified to recognize potential complications that may arise and to rescue the patient if necessary.

The FDA recognizes these dangers as well in a warning on the drug's package, indicating that it should only be administered by persons who are trained in the administration of general anesthesia and who are not involved in the conduct of the surgical/diagnostic procedure.

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