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Epidural anaesthesia with levobupivacaine and ropivacaine : effects of age on the pharmacokinetics, neural blockade and haemodynamics

Simon, M.J.G.

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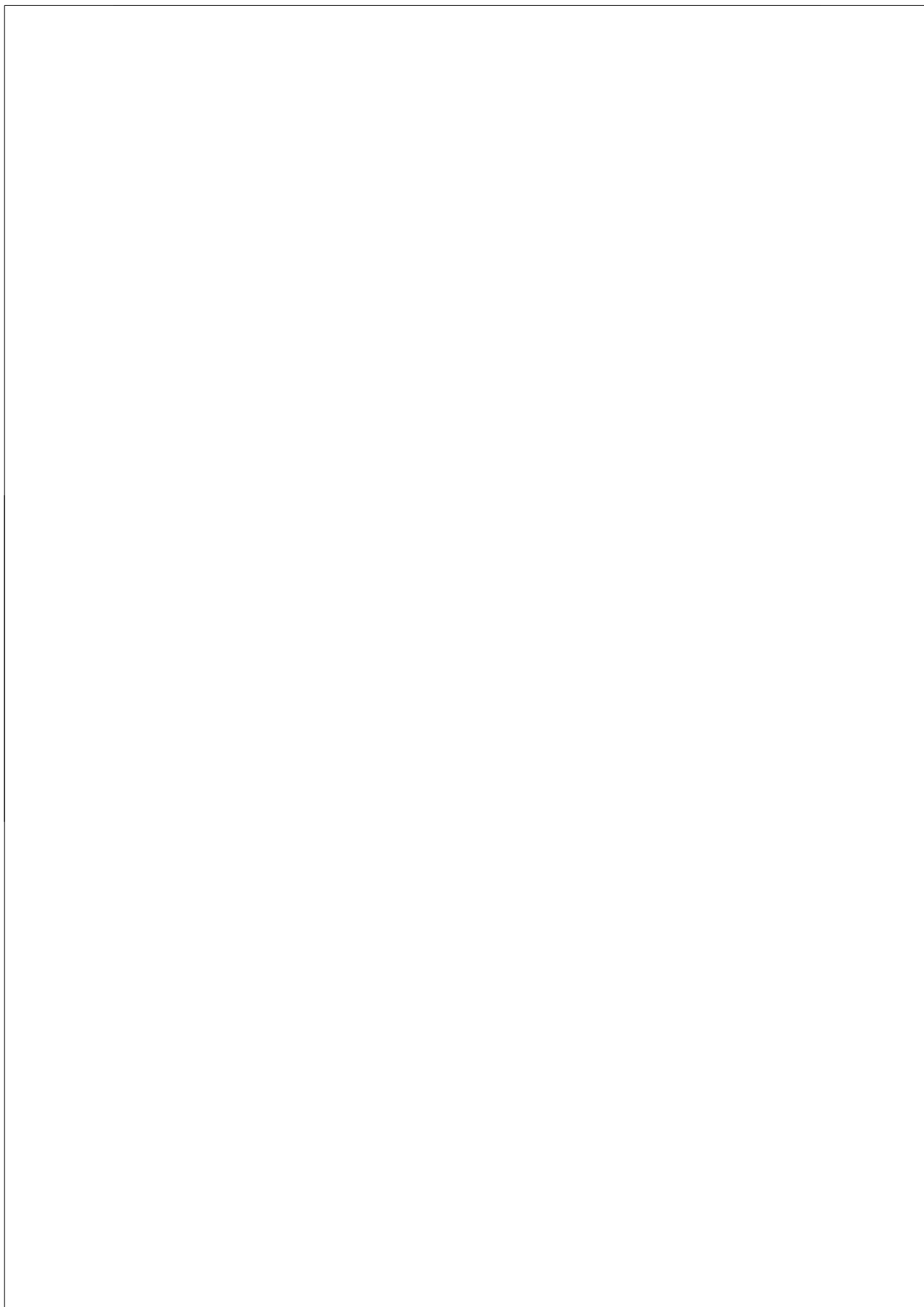
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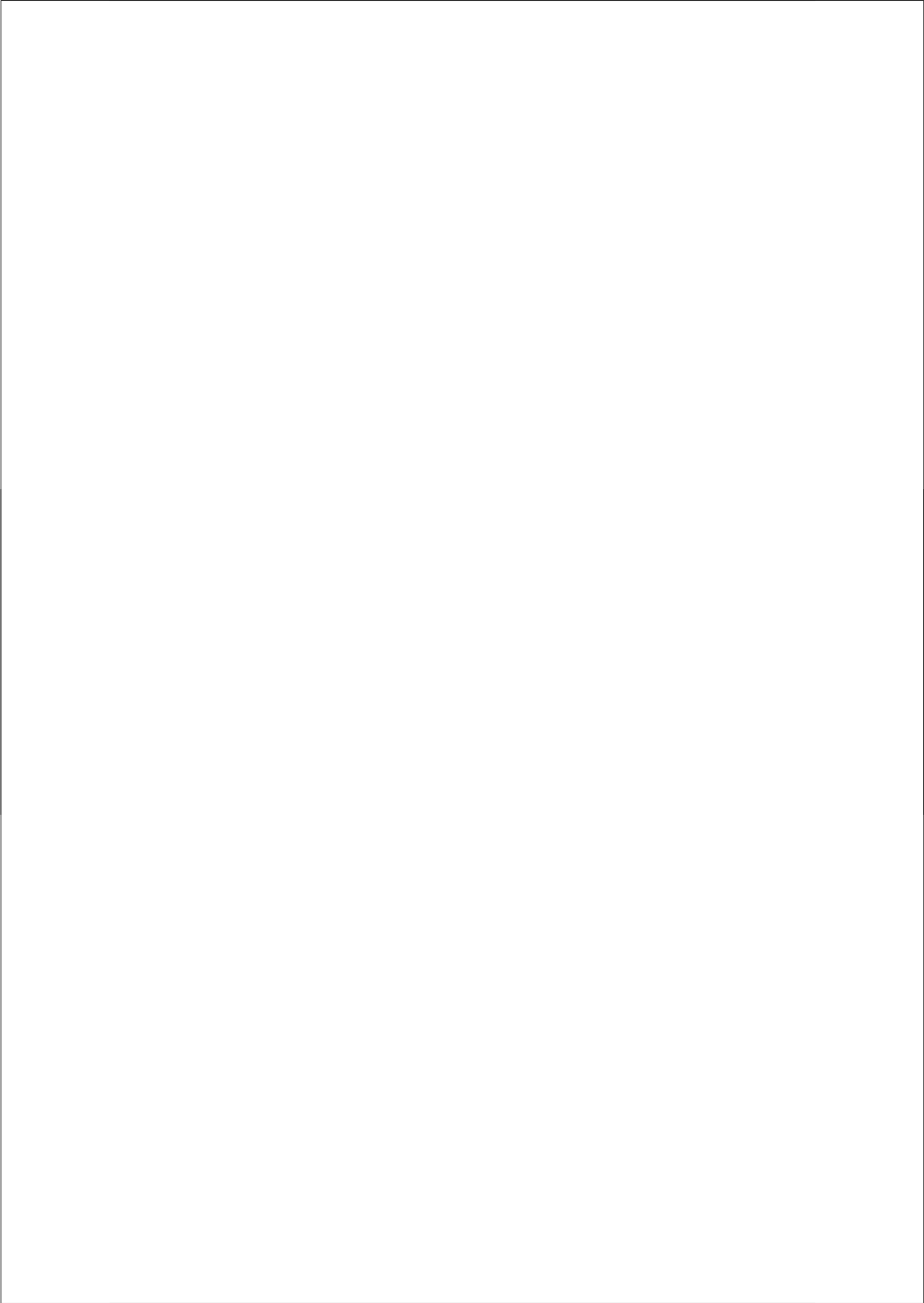
At last I would like to thank my wife Annemarie and my children Tijmen and Ward, my family and in-laws for their unconditional support and patience. Weekends will be different in future.

During the last phase of preparing the manuscript of this thesis, it became apparent in January 2005 that Prof. Dr. Ir. A.G.L. Burm was struck by a terrible disease. Even though in the beginning our hopes were high, the disease progressed and, sadly, he passed away on 28 October 2005, before the manuscript had totally been finished. I will remember his intellectual capacities and scientific integrity that struck me every time, when we were working together on the data of the studies. But, above all, I will remember him as a good-natured and warm personality, who was always willing to help with problems encountered with the studies.



CURRICULUM VITAE

The author of this thesis was born on 16 January 1971 in Haarlem. After completion of his secondary education (VWO) at the Werenfridus Scholengemeenschap in Hoorn in 1989, he entered Medical School at the University of Leiden. In 1994 he worked as a medical elective student at the Division of Gynaecological Oncology and Colposcopy (Chairman: Prof. B. Bloch), Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (Chairman: Prof. Dommisse), Groote Schuur Hospital, Capetown, South Africa. Then, in 1996 and 1997 he participated in research activities at the Department of Obstetrics, Leiden University Medical Center (Chairman: Prof. Dr. H.H.H. Kanhai). After receiving his Medical Degree in April 1997, he was appointed research fellow in the Department of Anesthesiology, Leiden University Medical Center (Chairman: Prof. Dr. J.W. van Kleef) and started the investigations described in this thesis. In 1999 he started his residency in anaesthesiology in the Department of Anesthesiology, Leiden University Medical Center (Chairman: Prof. Dr. J.W. van Kleef). After his registration as an anaesthesiologist in 2004, he has worked as a staff member at the same department, with a special interest in Pain Medicine & Palliative Care.



LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

1. Oepkes D, van Kamp IL, Simon MJG, Mesman J, Overbeeke MA, Kanhai HH. Clinical value of an antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity assay in the management of Rh D alloimmunization. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 2001; **184**: 1015-20
2. Simon MJG, Veering BT, Stienstra R, van Kleef JW, Burm AGL. The effects of age on neural blockade and hemodynamic changes after epidural anesthesia with ropivacaine. *Anesth Analg* 2002; **94**: 1325-30
3. Simon MJG, Veering BT, Stienstra R, van Kleef JW, Williams SG, McGuire GM, Burm AGL. The systemic absorption and disposition of levobupivacaine 0.5% after epidural administration in surgical patients: a stable-isotope study. *Eur J Anaesthesiol* 2004; **21**: 460-70
4. Simon MJG, Veering BT, Stienstra R, van Kleef JW, Burm AGL. Effect of age on the clinical profile and systemic absorption and disposition of levobupivacaine after epidural administration. *Br J Anaesth* 2004; **93**: 512-20
5. Simon MJG, Veering BT, Vletter AA, Stienstra R, van Kleef JW, Burm AGL. The effect of age on the systemic absorption and systemic disposition of ropivacaine after epidural administration. *Anesth Analg* 2006; **102**: 276-82
6. Simon MJG, Veering BT, Reekers M, Vuyk J, Boer F, Stienstra R, van Kleef JW, Burm AGL. Cardiovascular parameters and liver blood flow after infusion of a colloid solution and epidural administration of ropivacaine 0.75%. The influence of age and level of analgesia. *Submitted for publication*

