

# DECIMAL CLASSIFICATION FOR AN ANAESTHETIC FILING SYSTEM

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EVERY PHYSICIAN evolves a more or less elaborate system of references that he feels will come in handy in preparing a lecture, case report, or publication. This filing system should be simple, labour-saving and capable of unlimited expansion for maximum benefits to its user. The Dewey Decimal Classification System fulfils these requirements. It thus appeared desirable to adapt this system which is used in major libraries to the field of anaesthesia as well.

The field of anaesthesia is divided into nine main classes numbered 1 to 9, and subjects so general as to belong to none of these classes are marked 0 and form a tenth class. These classes are then considered independently and each is separated again into nine divisions. Thus 72 designates division 2, Ventilatory Resuscitation, of class 7, Resuscitation. A third classification is made by separating each of these divisions into nine sections numbered in the same way. Thus 721 represents section 1, Artificial Respiration, of division 2, Ventilatory Resuscitation, of class 7, Resuscitation. This decimal subdivision is repeated until it secures as many subdivisions as may be needed in any topic.

Theoretically, division of every subject into just nine parts is impossible; harmony and exactness repeatedly have to be sacrificed to practical requirements. When more than nine divisions are needed, the difficulty is commonly obviated by assigning 1-8 to subjects grouped on 9 as "others. . . ."

The following tables, by no means complete, for want of space, will illustrate the system and serve as a starting point for those who wish to adapt such a system to their anaesthesia files.

## FIRST SUMMARY

### CLASSES

000	General considerations	500	Fluid therapy
100	Basic sciences	600	Pre-, per-, and post-anaesthetic periods
200	General anaesthesia	700	Resuscitation
300	Conduction anaesthesia	800	Inhalation therapy
400	Special anaesthetic techniques	900	Anaesthesia for non-surgical conditions

## SECOND SUMMARY

### DIVISIONS

000	General considerations	040	Medico-legal considerations
010	History, biographies	050	Economic considerations
020	Bibliography	060	Operating and anaesthetic rooms
030	Anaesthetic records, statistics	070	Anaesthetic instruments and their care

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080	Researches in anaesthesia	420	Pre-anaesthetic status
100	Basic Sciences	430	In various types of surgery
110	Pharmacology	440	Hypothermia
120	Physiology	450	Control of bleeding
130	Anatomy	460	Pulmonary ventilation
140	Bio-Chemistry	470	Controlled circulation
150	Physics	480	Muscle Relaxation
200	General anaesthesia	500	Fluid Therapy
210	Theories	600	Pre-, per, and post-anaesthetic periods
220	Signs and stages	610	Pre-anaesthetic period
230	Methods	620	Per-anaesthetic period
240	Special methods	630	Post-anaesthetic period
250	Complications	700	Resuscitation
300	Conduction anaesthesia	710	Conditions requiring resuscitation
310	General considerations	720	Ventilatory resuscitation
320	Technique of nerve blocking	730	Circulatory resuscitation
330	Diseases managed with blocks	740	First aid equipment
340	Adjuvants to analgesic blocking	750	Analeptics
400	Special anaesthetic techniques	800	Inhalation therapy
410	Age considerations	900	Anaesthesia for non-surgical conditions

## THIRD SUMMARY

## SECTIONS

000	General considerations	241	<i>Balanced anaesthesia</i>
100	Basic sciences	242	<i>Combined anaesthesia</i>
110	Pharmacology	243	<i>Hypnosis</i>
111	<i>Central nervous system depressants</i>	244	<i>Electro-narcosis</i>
112	<i>Central nervous systems stimulants</i>	245	<i>Controlled narcosis</i>
113	<i>Local anaesthetics</i>	250	<b>Complications</b>
114	<i>Autonomic drugs</i>	300	<b>Conduction anaesthesia</b>
115	<i>Curare</i>	310	<b>General considerations</b>
116	<i>Histamine and antihistaminic agents</i>	320	<b>Technique of nerve blocking</b>
117	<i>Cardiovascular drugs</i>	321	<i>Blocking cranial nerves</i>
118	<i>Locally acting drugs</i>	322	<i>Blocking somatic spinal nerves</i>
120	<b>Physiology</b>	323	<i>Blocking autonomic nervous system</i>
121	<i>Body water and body fluids</i>	324	<i>Subarachnoid block</i>
122	<i>Blood</i>	325	<i>Peridural block</i>
123	<i>Heart and circulation</i>	326	<i>Local block</i>
124	<i>Respiration</i>	327	<i>Differential block</i>
125	<i>Nervous system</i>	328	<i>Intracisternal injection</i>
126	<i>Autonomic nervous system</i>	330	<b>Diseases managed with blocks</b>
127	<i>Metabolism</i>	340	<b>Adjuvants to analgesic blocking</b>
130	<b>Anatomy</b>	400	<b>Special anaesthetic techniques</b>
140	<b>Bio-chemistry</b>	410	<b>Age considerations</b>
150	<b>Physics</b>	411	<i>Paediatric anaesthesia</i>
200	<b>General anaesthesia</b>	412	<i>Geriatric anaesthesia</i>
210	<b>Theories</b>	420	<b>Pre-anaesthetic status</b>
220	<b>Signs and Stages</b>	430	<b>In various types of surgery</b>
230	<b>Methods</b>	440	<b>Hypothermia</b>
231	<i>Inhalation anaesthesia</i>	450	<b>Control of bleeding</b>
232	<i>Anaesthesia by intravascular injection</i>	460	<b>Pulmonary ventilation</b>
234	<i>Rectal anaesthesia</i>	461	<i>Controlled respiration</i>
240	<b>Special methods</b>	462	<i>Mechanical control of respiration</i>

463	<i>Diffusion respiration</i>	631	<i>Recovery</i>
464	<i>Hypoventilation and hyperventilation</i>	632	<i>Postoperative rounds</i>
470	<b>Controlled circulation</b>	633	<i>Postoperative care</i>
471	<i>Extracorporeal circulation</i>	634	<i>Complications</i>
472	<i>External pacemaker</i>	700	<b>Resuscitation</b>
480	<i>Muscle relaxation</i>	710	<b>Conditions requiring resuscitation</b>
500	<b>Fluid therapy</b>	711	<i>Cardiovascular emergencies</i>
600	<b>Pre, per- and post-anaesthetic periods</b>	712	<i>Respiratory emergencies</i>
610	<b>Pre-anaesthetic period</b>	713	<i>Drug intoxication</i>
611	<i>Evaluating patient</i>	714	<i>Asphyxia neonatorum</i>
612	<i>Preparing patient</i>	715	<i>Tetanos</i>
613	<i>Preparing equipment</i>	720	<b>Ventilatory resuscitation</b>
620	<b>Per-anaesthetic period</b>	721	<i>Artificial Respiration</i>
621	<i>Induction</i>	722	<i>Tracheotomy</i>
622	<i>Maintenance</i>	730	<b>Circulatory resuscitation</b>
623	<i>Awakening</i>	740	<b>First aid equipment</b>
624	<i>Positioning patient</i>	750	<b>Analeptics</b>
625	<i>Complications</i>	800	<b>Inhalation therapy</b>
630	<b>Post-anaesthetic period</b>	900	<b>Anaesthesia for non-surgical conditions</b>

## COMPLETE TABLES INCLUDING SUBDIVISIONS

000	<b>General considerations</b>	111.126	Cyclohexane
010	<b>History, biographies</b>	111.127	Acetylene
020	<b>Bibliography</b>	111.128	Xenon
030	<b>Anaesthetic records, statistics</b>	111.2	<b>Basal anaesthetics</b>
040	<b>Medico-legal considerations</b>	111.21	Tribromethanol
050	<b>Economic considerations</b>	111.22	Trichlorethanol
060	<b>Operating and anaesthetic rooms</b>	111.3	<b>Aliphatic alcohols and antabuse</b>
070	<b>Anaesthetic instruments and their care</b>	111.4	<b>Hypnotics and sedatives</b>
080	<b>Researches in anaesthesia</b>	111.41	<b>Barbiturates</b>
100	<b>Basic sciences</b>	111.411	Long-acting barbiturates
110	<b>Pharmacology</b>	111.412	Moderate duration barbiturates
111	<i>Central nervous system depressants</i>	111.413	Short-acting barbiturates
111.1	<i>General anaesthetics</i>	111.414	Ultra-short-acting barbiturates
111.11	<i>Volatile liquids</i>	111.414.1	Pentothal
111.111	<i>Ethers</i>	111.414.2	Surital
111.111.1	Diethyl-ether	111.414.3	Kemital
111.111.2	Vinethene	111.414.4	Neraval
111.111.3	Vinamar	111.414.5	Transithal
111.111.4	Metopryl	111.414.6	Thiogenal
111.111.5	Isopryl	111.414.7	Baytinal
111.111.6	<i>Fluorinated ethers</i>	111.414.8	Evipan
111.111.61	Fluoromar	111.414.9	Others. . . .
111.111.62	Fluothane	111.414.91	Venesetic
111.112	Chloroform	111.414.92	Eunarcon
111.113	Ethyl chloride	111.414.93	Narconumal
111.114	Trilene	111.42	<b>Bromides</b>
111.115	Isopropyl chloride	111.43	<b>Chloral hydrate</b>
111.116	Vinyl chloride	111.44	<b>Paraldehyde</b>
111.12	<b>Gases</b>	111.45	<b>Dormison</b>
111.121	Nitrous oxide	111.46	<b>Urethan</b>
111.122	Ethylene	111.47	<b>Mescaline</b>
111.123	Cyclopropane	111.48	<b>Bulbocapnine</b>
111.124	Cyclobutane	111.49	Others. . . .
111.125	Cyclopentane	111.491	Valmid

- 111.492 Noludar  
 111.493 Doridene  
 111.5 Centrally acting muscular relaxants  
 111.51 Mephenesin  
 111.52 Artane  
 111.53 Panparnit  
 111.54 Diparcol  
 11.55 Parsidol  
 111.6 Narcotics  
 111.61 Alkaloids of opium  
 111.611 Morphine  
 111.612 Codeine  
 111.613 Thebaine  
 111.614 Papaverine  
 111.615 Narcotine  
 111.616 Narceine  
 111.62 Synthetic narcotics  
 111.621 Demerol  
 111.622 Nisentil  
 111.623 Methadone  
 111.624 Levorphan  
 111.625 Leritine  
 111.626 Percodan  
 111.627 Dimorlin  
 111.628 Heptacyclaine  
 111.63 Narcotic antagonists  
 111.631 Nalline  
 111.632 Levallorphan tartrate  
 111.633 Daptazole  
 111.7 Analgesics and antipyretics  
 111.8 Tranquillizing drugs  
 111.81 Piperazine derivatives  
 111.811 Meretran  
 111.812 Frenquel  
 111.813 Atarax  
 111.814 Ritalin  
 111.82 Miltown  
 111.83 Dioxolane  
 111.84 Nostyn  
 111.85 Phenothiazine derivatives  
 111.851 Phenergan  
 111.852 Largactil  
 111.853 Sparine  
 111.854 Pacatal  
 111.855 Compazine  
 111.86 Reserpine  
 111.87 Ultrán  
 112 *Central nervous system stimulants*  
 112.1 Picrotoxine  
 112.2 Metrazol  
 112.3 Coramine  
 112.4 Strychnine  
 112.5 Camphor  
 112.6 Caffeine  
 112.7 Theophylline  
 112.8 Theobromine  
 112.9 Others. . . .  
 112.91 Megimide  
 112.92 Ritaline  
 113 *Local anaesthetics*  
 113.1 Cocaine  
 113.2 Novocaine  
 113.3 Pontocaine  
 113.4 Xylocaine  
 113.5 Metycaine  
 113.6 Nupercaine  
 113.7 Intracaine  
 113.8 Lucaine  
 113.9 Others. . . .  
 113.91 Cyclaine  
 113.92 Provocaine  
 113.93 Efocaine  
 113.94 Ravocaine  
 113.95 Sympocaine  
 113.96 Monocaine  
 113.97 Dyclonine  
 113.98 Carbocaine  
 113.99 Others. . . .  
 113.991 Hostacaine  
 114 *Autonomic drugs*  
 114.1 Parasympathicomimetic drugs  
 114.11 Choline esters  
 114.111 Acetylcholine  
 114.112 Metacholine  
 114.113 Carbachol  
 114.114 Bethanechol  
 114.12 Cholinesterase inhibitors  
 114.121 Physostigmine  
 114.122 Neostigmine  
 114.123 Benzpyrinium  
 114.124 Tensilon  
 114.125 Mestinon  
 114.13 Pilocarpine  
 114.14 Arecoline  
 114.15 Muscarine  
 114.2 Sympathomimetic drugs  
 114.21 Epinephrine  
 114.22 Levarterenol  
 114.23 Ephedrine  
 114.24 Amphetamine  
 114.25 Phenylethrine  
 114.26 Hydroxyamphetamine  
 114.27 Vasoxyl  
 114.28 Wyamine  
 114.29 Others. . . .  
 114.291 Propadrine  
 114.292 Methedrine  
 114.293 Isoproterenol  
 114.294 Methoxyphenamine  
 114.295 Privine

- 114.296 Cyclopentamine
- 114.297 Isuprel
- 114.298 Butanephrine
- 114.3 Autonomic blocking agents
- 114.31 Parasympathetic depressants
- 114.311 Atropine
- 114.312 Scopolamine
- 114.313 Bellafoline
- 114.314 Antrenyl
- 114.315 Tral
- 114.316 Banthine
- 114.32 Sympathetic depressants
- 114.321 Dibenamine
- 114.322 Ergot alkaloids
- 114.323 Priscoline
- 114.324 Piperoxan
- 114.325 Prosympal
- 114.326 Yohimbine
- 114.327 Ilidar
- 114.328 Rogitine
- 114.329 Others . . .
- 114.329.1 Dibenziline
- 114.329.2 Tolazoline
- 114.33 Ganglionic blocking agents
- 114.331 Nicotine
- 114.332 Lobelia
- 114.333 Arfonad
- 114.334 Trophenium
- 114.335 Necamylamine
- 114.336 Tetraethylammonium
- 114.336.1 Elvetil
- 114.336.2 Etamon
- 114.337 Pentamethonium
- 114.337.1 Antilusin
- 114.337.2 Pendiomide
- 114.338 Hexamethonium
- 114.338.1 Vegolysen
- 114.338.2 Hexanium
- 114.338.3 Esomid
- 114.338.4 Hexathide
- 115 *Curare*
- 115.1 Long-acting curare
- 115.11 D-tubocurarine
- 115.12 Curarine
- 115.13 Intocostrin
- 115.2 Medium-acting curare
- 115.21 Mediatonal
- 115.22 Brevatonal
- 115.23 Prestonal
- 115.3 Short-acting curare
- 115.31 Anectine
- 115.32 Brevidil
- 115.33 Celocurine
- 115.4 Quinine and derivatives
- 115.5 Benzimidazol
- 116 *Histamine and antihistaminic agents*
- 116.1 Histamine
- 116.2 Bonamine
- 116.3 Marezine
- 116.4 Dimenhydrinate
- 116.5 Benadryl
- 116.6 Pyribenzamine
- 116.7 Chlor-trimeton
- 117 *Cardiovascular drugs*
- 118 *Locally acting drugs*
- 118.1 Isuprel
- 118.2 Alevaire
- 118.3 Hyaluronidase
- 118.4 Anti-emetics
- 120 *Physiology*
- 121 *Body water and body fluids*
- 122 *Blood*
- 123 *Heart and circulation*
- 124 *Respiration*
- 125 *Nervous system*
- 126 *Autonomic nervous system*
- 127 *Metabolism*
- 130 *Anatomy*
- 140 *Bio-chemistry*
- 150 *Physics*
- 200 **General anaesthesia**
- 210 **Theories**
- 220 **Signs and stages**
- 230 **Methods**
- 231 *Inhalation anaesthesia*
- 231.1 *Methods of administration*
- 231.11 *Insufflation*
- 231.12 *Open drop*
- 231.13 *Semi-open*
- 231.14 *Semi-closed*
- 231.15 *Closed*
- 231.16 *Non-rebreathing*
- 231.17 *Partial rebreathing*
- 231.18 *To and fro*
- 231.2 *Apparatus and equipment*
- 231.3 *Artificial airways*
- 231.31 *Oropharyngeal airway*
- 231.32 *Nasopharyngeal airway*
- 231.33 *Endotracheal airway*
- 231.34 *Endobronchial airway*
- 231.35 *Trans-tracheal airway*
- 231.4 *CO<sub>2</sub> and general anaesthesia*
- 231.4 *Denitrogenation*
- 232 *Anaesthesia by intravascular injection*
- 233 *Rectal anaesthesia*
- 240 **Special methods**
- 241 *Balanced anaesthesia*
- 242 *Combined anaesthesia*
- 243 *Hypnosis*
- 244 *Electro-narcosis*

- 245 *Controlled narcosis*  
 250 **Complications**  
 300 **Conduction anaesthesia**  
 310 **General considerations**  
 320 **Technique of nerve blocking**  
 321 *Blocking cranial nerves*  
 322 *Blocking somatic spinal nerves*  
 322.1 Cervical plexus block  
 322.2 Phrenic nerve block  
 322.3 Brachial plexus block  
 322.4 Median nerve block  
 322.5 Ulnar nerve block  
 322.6 Radial nerve block  
 322.7 Thoracic paravertebral block  
 322.8 Intercostal nerve block  
 322.9 Others. . . .  
 322.91 Lumbar paravertebral block  
 322.92 Transsacral block  
 322.93 Femoral nerve block  
 322.94 Obturator nerve block  
 322.95 Sciatic nerve block  
 322.96 Tibial nerve block  
 322.97 Pudendal block  
 323 *Blocking autonomic nervous system*  
 323.1 Vagus nerve block  
 323.2 Stellate ganglion block  
 323.3 Lumbar sympathetic block  
 323.4 Coeliac plexus block  
 324 *Subarachnoid block*  
 324.1 Segmental subarachnoid block  
 324.2 Total subarachnoid block  
 324.3 Continuous spinal  
 324.4 Saddle block  
 324.5 Differential block  
 324.6 Hyper-, hypo-, and iso-baric techniques  
 324.7 Drugs used for spinal anaesthesia  
 324.8 Vasopressors intrathecally  
 324.9 Others. . . .  
 324.91 Neurolytic agents  
 324.92 Complications  
 325 *Peridural block*  
 325.1 Segmental peridural block  
 325.2 Continuous peridural block  
 325.3 Caudal block  
 325.4 Drugs used for peridural block  
 325.5 Continuous caudal block  
 325.6 Technique  
 325.7 Complications  
 326 *Local block*  
 326.1 Local infiltration  
 326.2 Topical application  
 326.3 Refrigeration anaesthesia  
 327 *Differential block*  
 328 *Intracisternal injection*  
 330 **Diseases managed with blocks**  
 340 **Adjuvants to analgesic blocking**  
 400 **Special anaesthetic techniques**  
 410 **Age considerations**  
 411 *Paediatric anaesthesia*  
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 420 **Pre-anaesthetic status**  
 430 **In various types of surgery**  
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 450 **Control of bleeding**  
 460 **Pulmonary ventilation**  
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 463 *Diffusion respiration*  
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 470 **Controlled circulation**  
 471 *Extracorporeal circulation*  
 472 *External pacemaker*  
 480 **Muscle relaxation**  
 500 **Fluid therapy**  
 600 **Pre, per-, and post-anaesthetic periods**  
 610 **Pre-anaesthetic period**  
 611 *Evaluating patient*  
 612 *Preparing patient*  
 612.1 Preoperative rounds  
 612.2 Psychotherapeutic preparation  
 612.3 Pre-anaesthetic medication  
 613 *Preparing equipment*  
 620 **Per-anaesthetic period**  
 621 *Induction*  
 622 *Maintenance*  
 623 *Awakening*  
 624 *Positioning patient*  
 625 **Complications**  
 625.1 Body water and body fluids  
 625.2 Heart and circulation  
 625.3 Respiration  
 625.4 Nervous system  
 625.5 Metabolism  
 625.6 Autonomic reflexes  
 625.61 Oculo-cardiac reflex  
 625.62 Carotid sinus reflex  
 625.63 Periosteal reflex  
 625.64 Somatic nerve traction reflex  
 625.65 Respiratory tract reflexes  
 625.66 Intrathoracic reflexes  
 625.67 Abdominal reflexes  
 625.7 Anaphylactic reactions  
 625.8 Death during anaesthesia  
 625.9 Others. . . .  
 625.91 Chemo-physiologic alterations  
 625.92 CO<sub>2</sub> accumulation  
 625.93 Anoxia  
 625.94 Drug incompatibilities  
 630 **Post-anaesthetic period**  
 631 *Recovery*

632	<i>Postoperative rounds</i>	720	<b>Ventilatory resuscitation</b>
633	<i>Postoperative care</i>	721	<i>Artificial respiration</i>
634	<i>Complications</i>	721.1	Mouth to mouth
700	<b>Resuscitation.</b>	721.2	Manual methods
710	<b>Conditions requiring resuscitation</b>	721.3	Mechanical methods
711	<i>Cardiovascular emergencies</i>	722	Tracheotomy
712	<i>Respiratory emergencies</i>	730	<b>Circulatory resuscitation</b>
713	<i>Drug intoxication</i>	740	<b>First aid equipment</b>
713.1	Barbiturates poisoning	750	<b>Analeptics</b>
713.2	Narcotic poisoning	800	<b>Inhalation therapy</b>
714	<i>Asphyxia neonatorum</i>	900	<b>Anaesthesia for non-surgical conditions</b>
715	<i>Tetanos</i>		

Referring to these tables, a number is given to the article to be classified. The title of the article with the name of the journal and its date of issue are written on a 4 × 6 inch filing card with the class number at the upper left corner, thus:

722

An anaesthetic technic for tracheostomy (R. Bryce-Smith) ANAESTHESIA—April 57, p. 152.

This reference and others are set out in numerical order in a small steel filing cabinet.

Sometimes, an article may be cross-filed under two or more headings according to points of interest and this makes possible a much more accurate classification of an article than when only one entry is used.

The class number for the present article is 030.

#### REFERENCE

DEWEY, MELVIL. *Decimal Classification and Relative Index*, 14th ed. Lake Placid Club, Essex, County N.Y.: Forest Press Inc. (1942).