

Ether remained the standard inhaled anesthetic until the early 1960s.

- The only inhalation agent that rivaled ether's safety and popularity was cyclopropane (introduced in 1934).
- both are highly combustible and both have since been replaced by a succession of nonflammable potent fluorinated hydrocarbons:
- halothane (developed in 1951; released in 1956),
- methoxyflurane (developed in 1958; released in 1960),
- enflurane (developed in 1963; released in 1973), and
- isoflurane (developed in 1965; released in 1981).