

## TABLE 16.1 Characteristics of the Ideal General Anesthetic Agent

Rapid and pleasant induction of surgical anesthesia

Rapid and pleasant withdrawal from surgical anesthesia

Adequate relaxation of skeletal muscles

Potent enough to permit adequate oxygen supply in mixture

Wide margin of safety

Nontoxic

Absence of adverse effects

Nonflammable/nonexplosive

Chemically compatible with anesthetic devices

Nonreactive

Inexpensive