Book Reviews

Respiratory Monitoring, vol 1, no. 4 of Contemporary Management in Critical Care

Martin J. Tobin, ed
New York, Churchill Livingstone, 1991
272 pp, illustrated, \$32.50

Respiratory Monitoring is a comprehensive overview of the varied approaches currently available to monitor respiratory function. The chapters, written by experienced practitioners, discuss basic principles as well as clinical applicability. The format is easy to read, with a generous use of white space on each page and major points highlighted in the margins. Topics covered include not only the familiar ones, such as blood gas analysis, capnography, pulse oximetry, and mixed venous oxygen monitoring, but also continuous measurement of blood gases, transconjunctival oxygen monitoring, and methods for assessing the neuromuscular function and mechanics of the respiratory system.

Three chapters in particular add a unique focus to this book. Gardner and Morris each provide a perspective on the impact of computer and information technology on patient monitoring. In light of the increasing focus on the cost of technology, the chapter by Krieger on the cost effectiveness of respiratory monitoring is an important addition and highlights the difficulty in deriving a monetary figure for cost effectiveness.

Although almost all the topics discussed in this book can be found in a variety of other texts, this reviewer is not aware of any other comprehensive, and current, review of respiratory monitoring that exists under one cover. It is especially useful for clinicians who are familiar with more visible technologies, such as pulse oximetry, but would like to know more about other modalities available for monitoring respiratory function.

The book lacks only an overview chapter by the editor contrasting the various technologies, especially for those approaches with overlapping functions. For clinicians with an interest in respiratory monitoring, this book is a useful addition to the personal library.

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Drug Infusions in Anesthesiology

Robert T. Fragen, ed
New York, Raven, 1991
240 pp, illustrated, \$82.00

Dr Fragen, assisted by a group of excellent scientist-writers, provides the best available description of state-of-the-art drug infusion approaches and then explains the theories that underlie them. This up-to-date, 8-chapter monograph begins by concisely explaining intravenous pharmacokinetics as the general principle that underlies drug infusions. Systems for drug infusion are next presented, followed by the specifics of intravenous anesthetics, opiates, muscle relaxants, total intravenous anesthesia, postoperative analgesia, and vasoactive drugs. This book is a "must" for every anesthesiologist's bookshelf; I highly recommend it.

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Dr Karen Reynolds and co-authors would like to acknowledge that reference to the paper by D. Raemer and colleagues, "The theoretical effect of carboxyhemoglobin on the pulse oximeter" (J Clin Monit 1989;5:246-249) was not included in the list of references for "The effect of dyshemoglobins on pulse oximetry: Part I, Theoretical approach, and Part II, Experimental results using an in vitro test system (J Clin Monit 1993;9:81-90).