Book reviews

Anesthesia and cardiac performance in health and disease

Shiro Shimosata MD, Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Illinois, 1981, 177 pages. \$29.75 US

This is a short, single authored book with ten chapters and a summary. The accent is on cardiac performance, reflecting the basic research experience of the author. Anaesthetic aspects, the last two chapters on effects of anaesthetic agents and management of the cardiac patient, total only 35 pages, so it is not a complete coverage of the subject, in the manner of the Kaplan and Tarhan texts.

As a treatise on the anatomy (from the sarcomere onward), physiology and biophysics of myocardial function, it is a thorough presentation, couched in as simple terms as possible. Concepts and definitions of terms (e.g., LVEDP, EF, stroke work) are explained. The nebulous term "myocardial contractility," is avoided and cardiac performance is analysed in terms of pump and muscle functions. Subsequent chapters go through myocardial ischaemia, infarction, hypertrophy and failure.

I found the book most readable, flowing in a logical manner from one subject to the next. The figures are clearly done, though some are hard to understand due to the complexity of the material. One must wonder at the spelling: *depolarization* on page 53. Also, information in the cardiac field changes quickly. On page 54 it is stated that tension-time index is "a very good correlate of the MVO_2 ." This has now been shown not to be true, nor is it for rate-pressure product, in anaesthetized cardiac patients.

This text is a useful aid to the understanding of the heart as a pump and muscle, for both the trainee and the experienced. The cardiac field, and the basic new information in it, is growing in great strides. We all need to keep up in it.

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Anesthesia and co-existing disease

R.K. Stoelting and S.F. Dierdorf (Editors), Churchill Livingstone (Academic Press, Toronto), 1983. \$74.25

The Editors have assembled information from 19 contributors, all in the Department of Anesthesia, Indiana University School of Medicine, in 36 chapters occupying 828 text pages, plus an extensive index. Chapter titles vary from the general (e.g., the pediatric patient) to the specific (e.g., restrictive lung disease).

This text is practical, careful, terse and adequate in most ways for an update on the significant factors governing anaesthesia in patients with concomitant diseases. Particularly commendable is the inclusion of updated references and the analytical approach (e.g., definition, current pathophysiology, significant preoperative, intraoperative and postoperative factors of the disease process, anaesthetic judgement and management).

This text will be of significant value to the clinician wishing a concise review on anaesthesia and most co-existing diseases. Departmental libraries should have this text so that practitioners and residents in anaesthesia can benefit from access to it.

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