Book Reviews

Day Care: Surgery, Anaesthesia and Management

Elizabeth G. Bradshaw, Harold T. Davenport (Eds.).

Edward Arnold, Hodder & Stoughton Publishers, 1989, pp 191. ISBN 0-7131-4560-9. £32.50.

This book is intended to appeal to anyone interested in day care surgery. The contributors have concentrated on ideas, attitudes and experiences of day care from a British point of view. There are 11 chapters which cover the following areas: history and economics of day surgery, establishing a day care unit in a hospital and in private practice, daily operation, day care in surgical specialities (ENT and dental, ophthalmic, plastic, gynaecological surgery), anaesthesia, paediatric day surgery, nursing aspects and chronic pain. The contributors include five surgeons, eight anaesthetists, four administrators and two nurses.

The chapter on establishing a day care unit will be very useful for those who plan to start a new unit. There are four diagrams of day care units that are practical. The chapters on nursing aspects provide an idea of the number of necessary nursing staff to cover the units.

This book has some drawbacks. The chapter on anaesthesia is outdated as the book was published in 1989. The use of propofol was not mentioned at all. The chapters written by the surgeons for the different kind of day surgery also have outdated viewpoints. The author in ophthalmic surgery indicated that day surgery patients must be healthy and diabetic or asthmatic patients should be excluded. In addition, some of the recommendations are not applicable due to the differences in the National Health Service in Great Britain and the Canadian Health System.

This book is recommended as a reading resource for anaesthetists who plan to establish a new day surgical unit, but it will not be useful for anaesthetists who want to improve their anaesthetic technique in day surgical patients.

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Sedation and Analgesia

G.R. Park and F. Gempeler. W.B. Saunders, 1993.

386 pages. ISBN 0-7020-1568-7. \$30.00 (Cdn).

In the preface to this text on sedation and analgesia, the authors state their aim of providing a guide to the problems of sedation and analgesia in intensive care unit patients, and techniques useful in their management. They also emphasize that they are disseminating information that is in the realm of the anaesthetist, but is important to ICU physicians who are not anaesthetists. The authors have achieved their stated objectives. *Critical Care Management—Sedation and Analgesia* brings together all aspects of sedation and pain control in a clearly written, well organized, and completely referenced text that has been sorely lacking to date.

The first chapter, *The Need For Sedation and Analgesia*, gives a brief overview of pain pathways, and defines some of the problems that are to be addressed in the following chapters. Of interest is a discussion of what patients find the most distressing when "subjected" to ICU care. Following sections on *Hazards of Sedation, Analgesia and Pharmacology in Critically Ill Patients*, and *Assessing Sedation and Analgesia*, the next seven chapters deal with specific categories and techniques of sedative and analgesic drugs. Each chapter is similarly organized, and takes the reader through the pharmacology, uses and side effects of the specific agent. Chapters on *Sedation and Analgesia in Children*, and *Case Studies in Sedation and Analgesia*, and an appendix dealing with *Trials of Sedative and Analgesic Agents* complete the book.

The negative aspects are few although some of the drugs will be unfamiliar to Canadian readers. The clinical assessment of the need for sedation and analgesia could have been described more fully. Antidepressants, the ethical aspects of pharmacological restraint, and how to deal with the patient iatrogenically addicted to sedatives are areas to which more detail may have been given. The need for adequate sedation when muscle relaxants are used should have been more strongly advocated.

These criticisms notwithstanding, I believe *Critical Care Management—Sedation and Analgesia* is a text that all individuals involved in the care of the critically ill patient will find informative, and would be a useful addition to any personal or institutional library.

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Cancer Pain

Richard B. Pratt (Ed.). J.B. Lippincott Company, 1992.
ISBN: 0-397-51138-8. 672 pages. \$79.50 (US).

Treatment of cancer-related pain requires a multidisciplinary approach. The editor of this 672-page text brings together 38 authors from a wide range of specialties to present a comprehensive text on the approach to assessment and agreement of cancer pain.

The text is divided into four sections which include assessment, pharmacological treatment, non-pharmacological approaches, and special problem areas. There is also a series of appendices which provide quick reference for such things as drug dosage to requirements for initiating nerve block programmes. The section on assessment provides a step-by-step guide for the comprehensive assessment of both adult and paediatric cancer patients. It includes chapters on both the behavioural and physical aspects of cancer-related pain. It is useful for the person initially learning how to manage cancer pain. Unfortunately, because there are different authors for each chapter there is some repetition of information.

The section on pharmacological treatment concentrates mainly on NSAID's and opioids. This section provides information on indications for use, choice of drug, and side effects. The final chapter deals with adjuvant drugs such as the antidepressants but does not provide enough information to prescribe them. The section on non-pharmacological treatment provides an excellent review of second line therapy including the use of intraspinal and neurolytic nerve blocks. Again they clearly outline indications, techniques, and complications of these procedures. For example, the chapter on intraspinal opioid therapy provides enough information to allow a physician to start therapy confidently. Finally, the special problems section provides overviews on such topics as cancer pain in children, neurosurgical interventions and oncological emergencies.

The editor certainly achieved his goal of creating a comprehensive text for those involved in the management of cancer pain. It is a worthwhile addition to any pain clinic or academic centre's library.

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