Book Review

New Developments in Pediatric Anesthesia

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Consulting Editor: *JL Benumof*, Guest Editor: *J Lerman*. WB Saunders Co., Philadelphia, London, Toronto, Montreal, Sydney, Tokyo, 1991. pp 950. \$44.00 (Cdn.) ISBN 0889-8537

Credit is due to Dr. Lerman for compiling this edition of the quarterly Anesthesiology Clinics of North America. He has taken the opportunity to review the directions that paediatric anaesthetic practice is taking with the input of sixteen contributors who are experts in their chosen topics. Twelve sections provide concise summaries of current, sometimes challenging, approaches to the care of the paediatric surgical patient. They emphasize recent trends: preoperative fasting guidelines have become less restrictive, control of postoperative pain by regional anaesthesia and narcotic infusions or patient-controlled analgesia is replacing traditional methods, intraoperative monitoring provides more physiological data than hitherto, new anaesthetic agents have been introduced and new technologies such as extracorporeal membrane oxygenation are available for supporting therapy.

The authors have detailed their current approaches to clinical management, with ample reference to the available literature. It is refreshing to see the multidisciplinary approach to postoperative pain management described by Dr. G. Goresky, with a sensitivity to the role of nursing in the assessment and treatment of pain. Dr. J. Ryan removes the fear of a malignant hyperthermia reaction by providing advice on treatment of a crisis, masseter spasm and the family of patients, with the reassurance that mortality is now infrequent. The potential usefulness of the new short-acting drugs, desflurane and sevoflurane and mivacurium are discussed by Drs. J. Lerman and B.W. Brandom in tantalising detail for those of us who have not yet had the opportunity to use them!

This book provides an excellent summary of the state-of-the-art practices in paediatric anaesthesia. It is a resource for those working in specialized units. More importantly, it produces an awareness of the standards of practice and objectives now expected when dealing with children coming for surgery. For North American anaesthetists, it identifies a readily accessible group of experts for reference.

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