Book Reviews

Learning and Teaching Tracheal Intubation

John W.R. McIntyre, Akimoto Matsuki, Kokuseido Publishing Company 1994. 117 pages. ISBN 4-7719-0146-5.

This is an extremely concise and comprehensive review of the skills and problems related to tracheal intubation. It can be easily read in an hour or two and provides an excellent background not only for those who are learning about tracheal intubation for the first time, but also for those who enjoy teaching the many aspects and techniques of the procedure.

One of the authors, Dr. J.W.R. McIntyre, is well known to Canadian anaesthetists. In a review article (*Can J Anaesth* 1987; 34: 204-13) he reviewed the methods to anticipate difficulties and the possible solutions to the failed intubation scenario.

The book is divided into 12 chapters and includes a review of airway anatomy, examination, equipment and the management of routine and failed tracheal intubation. The final chapters discuss the teaching process which occurs in the operating room and issues regarding initial and sustained levels of competency. Each chapter is followed by a complete summary of the educational objectives. The methods used to achieve these objectives (e.g., teaching models and methods of presentation) and to evaluate the effectiveness are also noted.

The discussions lack detail in some areas, e.g., preoperative examination and verification of tube location, but most of the essentials are included. There is an up-to-date section on the usefulness of the laryngeal mask airway. Charts indicating the possible pathways available for each individual action and the outcome are well done and are a helpful review for the different scenarios possible during tracheal intubation. The ten figures of the anatomy and the process of tracheal intubation are extremely well done. Unfortunately, there are no diagrams of the rarely used equipment which may be unfamiliar to many readers. Although teaching methods and evaluation tools are discussed, specific details are not referenced and do not appear to be readily available.

This is a very useful synopsis, not only for new trainees, but also for experienced teachers. Its brevity, diagrams, and new approaches to teaching methods make it a worthwhile reading experience for both anaesthetists and trainees.

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Clinical Anesthesia Practice

Robert R. Kirby, Nikolaus Gravenstein (Eds.). W.B. Saunders Company 1994. 1457 pages. \$121.00 (Cdn). ISBN: 0-7216-3328-5.

This book is a 1400 page, single volume, multi-authored textbook of anaesthesia directed to all engaged in clinical work. The contributors include many individuals who will be readily recognized as expert in their selected areas. The text is appropriately illustrated and makes frequent use of tables to summarize and provide additional information.

The first nine sections of the book, comprising 54 chapters, deal with the basic issues of anaesthetic practice. These chapters cover topics such as the safety of anaesthetic practice, machines and monitors, pharmacology and physiology. The approach is to focus on clinically relevant features of these issues rather than to be all-encompassing.

The final 26 chapters are oriented toward the major areas of clinical practice. All common areas of anaesthesia are covered including, for example, the paediatric patient, adult cardiovascular surgery, thoracic surgery, etc. The editors state that their goal in these chapters is to describe the clinical approach to common problems as if "to a colleague who had not dealt with a particular problem for a period of time," and to provide clinically proven "tips" or "pearls."

The clinical focus of the book is reflected in the organization of the chapters. Issues are presented as answers to common problems. For example, in considering the post-bypass period, questions are posed such as: How should protamine be administered? What are the causes of low cardiac output? What are the causes and treatment of excessive bleeding? What metabolic problems are likely? and When should patients be extubated? While the answers are not comprehensive or satisfying to subspecialists, this structure allows information to be rapidly assimilated by the reader. As a method to gain an update about an unfamiliar area, this approach is highly effective and supports use of the book as a clinical reference.

During the several weeks this text was on my desk, I referred to it increasingly often to gain insights into problems. I was occasionally disappointed in the depth of information provided, since by not being comprehensive, the editors have allowed for some weakness in discussion. In such instances, readers can adjust by consulting the ample references provided.

In summary, I found this to be a useful book and will continue to use it. It may also be useful for residents early in training trying to select the most important clinical issues to study. Senior residents preparing for oral examinations may find the clinical orientation useful. Finally, clinicians confronting a problem beyond their normal area of practice may find the text a timely and useful orientation to the key issues.

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Anesthetic Principles for Organ Transplantation

D. Ryan Cook, Peter J. Davis (Eds.). Raven Press, 1994. 398 pages. \$125.00 (US). ISBN: 0-7817-0011-6.

This book attempts to provide, for the first time, a comprehensive coverage of transplantation problems for anaesthetists. Twenty-seven authors, 20 of them from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, contributed to this book which was divided into two major sections. The first, "General Considerations," includes a review of the pathophysiology of multiorgan failure, immunology, pharmacology, the technique of organ procurement and preservation. The second, titled, "Clinical Considerations," presents the perioperative anaesthetic and surgical management for transplantation procedures. Paediatric patients are discussed separately.

The text of the first five chapters is clearly written and provides almost all the basic information needed to understand the clinical part of the book better. In the second section, clinically oriented chapters present a detailed discussion about intraoperative management for heart, lung, heart-lung, liver, kidney, pancreas, small bowel, bone marrow, corneal, and skin transplantation. In these chapters, the role of the anaesthetist in the preoperative preparation of transplant patients is minimized by the authors.

In this otherwise excellent clinical section, there are some omissions. In the "Liver Transplantation" chapter, the authors neglect to discuss either the indications for veno-venous bypass during the anhepatic stage or the benefits and risk of this method. The considerations about metabolic management, the maintenance of kidney function, and the pharmacological methods of decreasing blood loss, are cursory.

An additional strength of this book are four chapters which present the social, ethical, legal, and religious aspects of organ transplantation. These are written by a psychiatrist, a psychologist, and a theologian. Another strong point of this book is that each chapter contains an extensive, up-to-date bibliography.

Undoubtedly, this book will be accepted and read not

only by anaesthetists specializing in transplantation, but by all of us who provide anaesthesia to patients that have undergone transplantation surgery. Overall, the authors should be congratulated on this pioneering and important work.

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Anesthésie Ambulatoire, 2e édition

Joël Langlois. Temps Pastel 1994. 224 pages. 90 F. ISBN: 2-910877-00-0.

Il s'agit d'un court précis d'environ 200 pages qui se veut un mode d'emploi de l'anesthésie ambulatoire pour un milieu qui souhaite débiter ce service. L'auteur admet honnêtement le retard majeur de la France dans le développement de la chirurgie en court-séjour. Ce retard marqué, si on le compare au développement de ce type de chirurgie en Amérique du Nord, résulte en un ouvrage qui traite du sujet d'une façon beaucoup plus superficielle que les ouvrages publiés sur le sujet en Amérique du Nord. Les aspects spécifiques de la chirurgie et de l'anesthésie ambulatoires n'y sont qu'effleurés et dans l'ensemble le livre consiste majoritairement en un distillat des techniques d'anesthésie axé surtout sur des recettes spécifiques à l'anesthésie ambulatoire. L'auteur a choisi volontairement d'être pratique et de ne pas s'étendre sur les considérations théoriques. Cependant, cette façon de traiter le sujet amène forcément des affirmations parfois très catégoriques dont le fondement scientifique est pour le moins questionnable (e.g.: arrêt de l'aspirine une semaine pré-op, séjour de 2h30 à la salle de réveil après l'emploi de curares non-dépolarisants, etc.). On peut aussi s'étonner que dans le contexte d'objectif de concision et de pragmatisme, de la présence d'un chapitre relativement élaboré sur des tests psychomoteurs en période de réveil. De même, le long chapitre qui reproduit les lois françaises sur l'anesthésie et la chirurgie présente un intérêt tout à fait nul pour les non-français.

En résumé, il s'agit d'un précis dont la clientèle cible est l'anesthésiste français de première ligne. Le lecteur nord-américain a à sa disposition des ouvrages sur le même sujet qui sont beaucoup plus élaborés et beaucoup plus adaptés à la réalité nord-américaine.

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Interactive Regional Anesthesia

O. Fernandez, A Galindo. Churchill-Livingstone

Interactive Publications© 1994. \$225.00 (US).

ISBN: 0-443-07830-0.

This work is a textbook of regional anaesthesia in CD-ROM format for Macintosh and Windows computers. It features a lively presentation style with voice annotation, an extensive collection of good quality graphics, and even animation effects and video clips. The authors cover most topics of interest to enthusiasts of regional anaesthesia, including sections on ophthalmic anaesthesia and head and neck blocks, as well as an excellent historical section and an interactive review of related physiology and pharmacology. A variety of video clips of varying quality (some have no sound) illustrate the various techniques discussed. A surprising absence was the lack of a section on subarachnoid blocks, a serious limitation in any treatment of regional anaesthesia. Of interest, electrolocation techniques are emphasized for many blocks, including intercostal blocks.

I installed the software on my Pentium without difficulty, but only after disabling Windows virtual memory and lowering the video resolution to 640×480 as per the installation instructions. Not everyone will appreciate having to do this as a prelude to getting the software to run.

I recommend this CD-ROM to any department wishing to provide multimedia teaching materials for their residents and staff, but some technical savvy may be necessary to get everything working.

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