Book Reviews

Recent Advances in Anaesthesia and Analgesia

Adams AP, Cashman JN. Churchill Livingstone, London, 2000. 214 pages. ISBN 0-443-05988-8

This is a 12 chapter review of a variety of subjects in anesthesia, some of which are very scientifically oriented, others more clinical in nature.

The chapters on cytokines, α_2 -adrenergic agents and artificial blood are very detailed, yet concise and well referenced. They provide a great short read for the clinical anesthesiologist, keeping one up to date on these somewhat cerebral topics. The chapters on permissive hypotension and cerebral resuscitation review current indications and recommended practice. The chapter on albumin use addresses the recent evidence condemning use of albumin as a fluid replacement, and provides an interesting counter opinion and opposite bias to those 1998 scientific publications.

The chapter on risk assessment provides some novel information on how the individual anesthesiologist, surgeon, and health care system must be considered when looking at outcome. Currently we have minimal tools in anesthesia for standardizing patient risk assessment, other than the limited ASA classification and minimally relevant Goldman and Detsky scores. This is an area that is bound to blossom in the coming years.

The chapter on minor neurological sequelae of central neural blockade provides a good up to date review of TNS/TRI, backache, and neurotoxicity of anesthetic agents.

As prefaced, this 21st volume of recent advances in anesthesia and analgesia addresses some interesting areas that we shall be seeing in our clinical practice of the 21st century. The references are as recent as 1999, and each chapter concludes with a list of key points for clinical practice. It is a very readable volume, providing detailed information about some cerebral subjects. I would recommend it as a good addition to every clinical anesthesiologist's library.

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