Book & New Media Reviews

The Airway Cam™ Guide to Intubation and Practical Emergency Airway Management

Richard M. Levitan. Airway Cam Technologies, Inc., Wayne, Pennsylvania, 2004. 324 pages. 450 colour illustrations. \$59.95 US. ISBN 192901812-6

Dr. Richard Levitan, Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, is perhaps best known for his invention of the "Airway Cam" system for externally visualizing and recording ordinary intubations. This head-mounted camera is aligned with the intubator's dominant pupil to allow real-time imaging of laryngoscopy from the operator's perspective (see www.airwaycam.com for details).

Now Dr. Levitan has written a surprisingly comprehensive guide to emergency airway management that draws heavily upon his vast experience using this technology. The result is a beautifully illustrated airway management guide bursting with full colour illustrations.

The Airway Cam Guide to Intubation and Practical Emergency Airway Management emphasizes practical techniques most likely to yield "first pass" intubation success using traditional intubation tools. The text is replete with tips, techniques, airway anatomy, and numerous case examples, all illustrated in full colour. I was particularly pleased to see step-by-step laryngoscopy images used in abundance.

The book is not without its minor imperfections. For instance, the book makes no mention of the recent (May 2003) revision to the American Society of Anesthesiologists Difficult Airway Algorithm. As a result, the old 1993 algorithm is presented (Figure 1.1, p. 4). (Elsewhere, however, the book is delightfully up to date, such as in its discussion on the Glidescope Video Laryngoscope). Also, on page 270 the author describes how rocuronium can be administered prior to a hyponotic to reduce time to intubation, but fails to identify that patients should be warned that rocuronium is very painful when administered awake.

All-in-all, this is a splendid, well-illustrated work that is worthy of residing in the anesthesia library of individuals and departments alike.

Highly recommended.

D. John Doyle MD PhD FRCPC
Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, USA
E-mail: doylej@ccf.org