Book & New Media Reviews

Pediatric Anesthesia Practice

Ronald Litman (Editor). New York: Cambridge University Press; 2007, 216 pages. \$49.00 US. ISBN 978-0-521-70937-8 (paperback)

This book is part of a new Cambridge Pocket Clinician Series launched in 2007 that was designed to provide readers with convenient, easy to use, compact-sized books. Of the nine titles in the series, the following four are on the topic of anesthesia: Anesthesia and Co-existing Disease, Manual of Anesthesia Practice, Obstetric Anesthesia, and Pediatric Anesthesia Practice.

Pediatric Anesthesia Practice is divided into three main sections: Coexisting Diseases, Surgical Procedures, and Regional Anesthesia. The Coexisting Diseases section presents 30 of the most common pediatric diseases and their corresponding anesthetic considerations. It describes the characteristics of each disease, including the related preoperative assessment, intraoperative management, and postoperative considerations. The Surgical Procedures section explains the anesthetic management of precisely 103 pediatric procedures. This section is sub-divided into the coexisting diseases related to each procedure, including preoperative assessment, procedural considerations, anesthetic plan, pain management strategies, and relevant postoperative considerations. The last section, Regional Anesthesia, describes epidural and spinal anesthesia, including the indications, the pre-procedural assessment, the procedural management, and the post-procedural concerns. Topics within each section of the book are presented in alphabetical order and point form, adding to its user-friendly format.

It is also worth noting that the book's editor is from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and that no fewer than 61 different authors from many different centres have contributed to the text. The variety of submissions ensures that the book reflects a representative view of the specialty of pediatric anesthesia as a whole, rather than simply representing the views of anesthesiologists from a single institution. This book provides a concise refresher of the considerations required for specific procedures or diseases. Its format

is ideal for the anesthesia trainee, and, although it is probably too fundamental for a fellowship-trained pediatric anesthesiologist, it could prove to be valuable for a quick review of rare diseases or surgical procedures that have not been encountered for some time.

In comparison, Paediatric Anaesthesia (Oxford University Press, 1st edition, 2007) is a more detailed handbook that includes additional topics that would be beneficial to an anesthesia trainee. These topics include pediatric physiology, pharmacology, anatomy, anesthesia equipment, resuscitation, and problems such as laryngospasm and bronchospasm encountered during anesthesia. In addition, this handbook has a more detailed regional anesthesia section, including descriptions of peripheral blockade and a more complete section on pediatric syndromes and congenital heart disease.

Despite its limitations, Pediatric Anesthesia Practice will serve as a useful, quick-service reference tool for medical students and residents rotating through pediatric anesthesia. Ideally, the handbook should be used together with a reference book that includes the basics of pediatric anesthesia.

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Handbook of Ambulatory Anesthesia, Second Edition

Rebecca S. Twersky, Beverly K. Philip. Springer, New York, USA. 2008, 480 pages. ISBN 978-0-387-73328-9

An impressive collection of authors were assembled to write the 16 various chapters of this handbook that covers the following topics: preoperative testing, advanced ambulatory procedures, perioperative challenges, outpatient anesthetic techniques, patient recovery, patient discharge process, and the administrative, regulatory, and financial aspects of ambulatory anesthesia. On the whole, the chapters are excellently written and well referenced. Relevant guidelines from the American Heart Association, American Society of

Anesthesiologists', and the American Medical Association are presented, and there are ample literature references.

As a practising Canadian anesthesiologist, I find some of the "advanced" ambulatory procedures surprising. The list of advanced ambulatory procedures includes laparoscopic splenectomy, laparoscopic nephrectomy, stereotactic neurosurgery, anterior mediastinoscopy, and carotid endarterectomy. However, most of the chapters discuss procedures that are more easily recognized as ambulatory procedures. I am somewhat disappointed that the chapter on regional anesthesia makes no reference to the use of intralipid for local anesthetic toxicity. Furthermore, the chapter continues to recommend dosing local anesthetic on a per kilogram basis, and it lists duration of peripheral nerve blocks independent of the particular nerve blocked.

The chapters on preoperative testing, sedation, recovery, and discharge process are strong on content and a valuable resource. As well, the later chapters of the book convey valuable information regarding the logistics, regulation, accreditation, administration, and quality control of ambulatory surgical centres. This is the real strength of this book. In conclusion, this handbook would be a worthwhile resource for any anesthesiologist who may be establishing a new ambulatory centre, negotiating financial terms to provide private office based anesthesia, or administering the recovery and discharge process for his/her local hospital.

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