Book Review

Pediatric Anesthesia. Principles & Practice

Bruno Bissonnette, Bernard Dalens. McGraw-Hill Medical Publishing Division Inc., 2002. 1,618 pages. ISBN 0-07-135454-9

This impressive new text entitled "Pediatric Anesthesia. Principles & Practice" joins the ranks of several other comprehensive works on the subject. So why do we need a new major reference work on pediatric anesthesia? Part of the answer lies in the truly international background of the contributors. The editors, Bruno Bissonnette from Toronto and Bernard Dalens from Clermont-Ferrand, France, have assembled an impressive list of authors, many of whom are leading authorities on pediatric anesthesia and related areas. Of the 145 contributors, 65 are European, 40 are from Canada, 29 are from the United States, and 11 are from other parts of the world. The book is dedicated "to all the children of the world we care for", which seems a highly appropriate sentiment, given the global nature of the authorship.

The 86 chapters are grouped into six sections, namely Developmental Considerations, Pharmacology, Anesthetic Management and Techniques, Special Monitoring and Resuscitation Techniques, Surgical and Anesthetic Considerations of Procedures and Future of Pediatric Anesthesia. This grouping is logical and allows for easy location of specific topics. The section on Procedures is particularly innovative in that each topic is discussed in paired chapters, one describing the surgical or interventional considerations followed by one on the anesthetic considerations. A significant number of contributors are therefore from surgical or other disciplines.

Every chapter reaches a consistently high standard of writing. Illustrations are generally of superb quality and the references appear relevant, recent and comprehensive. The index is well organized and complete. Highlights of the book are many, but the chapters on Temperature Regulation, Regional Anesthetic Techniques, Airway Management and Neonatal Anesthesia are particularly well written and comprehensive. It was pleasing to see excellent chapters devoted to Ethics, Special Problems in Developing Countries and Computer Systems. There are very few areas of deficiency and those that are present are of a minor nature. One general observation that could be made, however, is that some of the emerging technologies, e.g., intra-operative magnetic resonance imaging, fetal surgery

and neonatal/infant laparoscopy, receive little attention - maybe in the next edition?

In summary, this is a book that will rapidly become a favourite reference for all those interested in pediatric anesthesia. It would be a worthwhile acquisition for all anesthesia departments with a pediatric practice. Though only just published, this masterpiece can already be considered a classic.

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Clinical Anesthesiology

G. Edward Morgan Jr, Maged S. Mikhail, Michael J. Murray. McGraw-Hill Medical Publishing Division Inc., 2002. 1,045 pages. ISBN 0-8385-1553-3

In the preface of this third edition, the authors state that the goal of "Clinical Anesthesiology" is "to provide a concise, consistent presentation of the basic principles essential to the modern practice of anesthesia." The book is divided in five sections: 1) anesthetic equipment and monitors; 2) clinical pharmacology; 3) regional anesthesia and pain management; 4) physiology, pathophysiology and anesthetic management; and 5) special problems. Each chapter first presents a series of key concepts and a corresponding numbered icon identifies the section in which it is discussed. The chapter ends with a case discussion dealing with clinical problems of current interest, using a framework similar to that used in oral examinations. In addition, the book features "Profiles in Anesthetic Practice", brief essays that present editorialized counterpoints to the usual textbook dogma.

In summary, this is not your usual "encyclopedia" anesthesia textbook. "Clinical Anesthesiology" is not a "cookbook" either. Rather, it is a well balanced approach to the practice of anesthesia, providing clinicians with the scientific rationale required to update their practice or to prepare for a major change. Going back to a more "general" profile after ten years in cardiac anesthesia, I found this book particularly relevant and useful.

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Anaesthesia. A Concise Handbook

Graham Arthurs. GMM (Greenwich Medical Media) Limited, 2001. \$29.95. ISBN 1-84110-080-3

This handbook purports to be a practical text covering all the common conditions and problems encountered by trainees and junior practicing anesthesiologists. As the undergraduate education coordinator for our department, I reviewed this text with interest as a potential source of information for our undergraduate and postgraduate trainees.

The text is organized in an alphabetical manner and has coded tabs from A to Z along its outside margin. Unfortunately, there is no detailed index. This could be particularly distressing if one is attempting to rely on this text for advice in an emergency situation.

The text starts well with a large section dealing with the airway. This section includes principles of airway assessment, a description of various pieces of equipment and everyday issues such as methods of tracheal tube fixation. However, the section on management of difficult airways is strikingly inadequate. There is an incomplete table (missing items such as the intubating laryngeal mask) and no reference to the excellent algorithms currently available.

The text continues on from A (airway) through C for cardiac arrest (and the ACLS protocols) and finally to W (weight and obesity). Although there are some very practical pointers with a good discussion of basic topics such as electrocardiography, this text is a poor substitute for basic textbooks currently being used by Canadian trainees.^{1,2} Overall, I do not recommend this text be purchased for either academic department libraries or their trainees.

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References

- 1 *Stoelting RK, Miller RD.* Basics of Anesthesia, 3rd ed. New York: Churchill-Livingstone, 1994.
- 2 *Sullivan P.* Anaesthesia for Medical Students. Published by the Department of Anaesthesia, Ottawa Civic Hospital, 1999.

Non-Invasive Respiratory Support: A Practical Handbook Second Edition

Anita K. Simonds. Oxford University Press, 2001. 320 pages. \$71.95 (US). ISBN 0 340 76259 4

Noninvasive ventilation (NIV) is a vast domain in full expansion. There is a wealth of material on this subject. Nevertheless, to carry out NIV in clinical practice is not an easy task, especially for a novice. The purpose

of this book is a description of the how, the when and the why. It gives the reader the opportunity to put things in perspective and sum up actual facts and data. The first section of this book concerns itself chiefly with the employment of NIV in acute respiratory failure. The main chapters are devoted to equipment, practical considerations, approaches to different problems encountered and, finally, to the choice of patients likely to improve under NIV. The second section deals mostly with instructions or directions for NIV in the home. Once more, practical and clinical aspects are described in a clear and concise way. All subjects are dealt with a concern to be accurate and the desire for simplicity. Major clinical studies are therefore quoted, examined and assessed in an unbiased way. Numerous graphs, charts, tables and pictures of very good quality make pleasant reading and help understand the subject at hand.

Anita K. Simonds, consultant in respiratory medicine in the UK, was able to surround herself with a team of international experts for the second edition of this book. Naturally, this gives instant credibility to her book. We find, for example, chapters written by physicians such as Nicolino Ambrosino, Marco Confalonieri, Mark Elliot and Stefano Nava. Their recommendations are in complete accordance with those of the last international consensus conference for noninvasive positive pressure ventilation in acute respiratory failure.

For all the reasons above, I firmly believe that this book will satisfy the needs and desires of students as well as teachers interested by mechanical ventilation. Some readers might find some chapters unnecessary, but in my opinion, these chapters give the book a feeling of completeness. In summary, this is a book that I strongly recommend to my future and present colleagues.

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