Book & New Media Reviews

Anesthesia and Co-Existing Disease, 4th Edition

Robert K. Stoelting, Stephen F. Dierdorf (Eds).

Churchill Livingstone, New York, 2002. 798 pages.
\$115 USD. ISBN 0-443-06604-3

This is the fourth edition of the classic work by Stoelting and Dierdorf. The current edition, published a decade after the third edition in 1993, retains the same succinct style as previously, emphasizing the pathophysiological basis of diseases, and their anesthetic implications. The book has been carefully updated, with new information on heart disease, asthma, immune system disorders, diabetes, obesity, and much more. I found the book to be a well-written, well-illustrated work with numerous illustrations, tables, and figures to assist in learning. Discussions on the anesthetic management of many syndromes are supported by case reports that make the material more interesting and easy to apply. In many respects this textbook serves as a bridge between medicine and anesthesiology that enables the anesthesiologist to be a true perioperative physician. It is the best source I have ever read to summarize the anesthetic management of pediatric, geriatric and obstetric patients in an easy yet comprehensive manner.

Of course, like any text, there are flaws. New recommendations by the American College of Cardiology - American Heart Association concerning the preoperative management of cardiac patients for non-cardiac surgery are missing. Information on the anesthetic implications of managing subarchnoid hemorrhage by endovascular coiling are absent. Also in the same chapter there is no mention of the mechanisms for developing vasospasm after subarchnoid hemorrhage and the new modalities for its treatment. Similarly, in the chapter discussing aortic aneurysm management, there was no mention about the anesthetic management of endovascular treatment of aortic aneurysm.

All in all, this book is a very good source for the anesthetic management of most medical syndromes. I would recommend this book for preparing for the anesthesia fellowship (board) examination.

Ehab Farag MD
Cleveland, Ohio

Airway Cam™ Video Series, Volume 4: Secrets of Curved Blade Laryngoscopy

R.M. Levitan, W. Kinkle, E.A. Ochroch (Eds). 28

min. \$149.95 US. Airway Cam™ Technologies Inc.

This is the fourth in a series of educational videotapes from these authors. Like the other tapes, it provides superb video images of real laryngoscopies, coupled with very clear and often overlooked teaching points. The authors begin with a review of laryngeal anatomy using illustrations, video and still images obtained by flexible fiberoptic nasopharyngoscopy, videolaryngoscopy using the GlideScope® (Saturn Biomedical Systems, Burnaby, BC, Canada) and Levitan's head-mounted airway video camera (Airway Cam™, Airway CAM Technologies Inc., Wayne, PA, USA).

The specific teaching points covered in volume 4 include the importance of internal land marking using the epiglottis, the value of external laryngeal manipulation and its distinction from cricoid pressure and the benefits resulting from Levitan's recommended stylet configuration. With the exception of the last point, these are not really secrets, though their importance warrants this emphasis. The advantages of Levitan's hockey stick configured stylet (< 35° angulation proximal to the cuff), in contrast to a more gentle curve, is well demonstrated using radiographs and actual video footage.

The video includes multiple video sequences of routine laryngoscopies and intubations demonstrating both good and poor techniques. The narration clearly identifies problems commonly encountered and proposes simple solutions demonstrating precisely how they are corrective. These include failure to identify the epiglottis, problems resulting from missing upper incisors and loss of the glottic view during endotracheal tube insertion. After demonstrating the fundamental teaching points on routine intubations, the video concludes with the application of these principles on a patient with gun shot wounds to the face and head.

Who will benefit from this videotape? It deserves a place in the libraries of anesthesiology and emergency departments. Unquestionably, it will be useful to novice laryngoscopists, but it is likely that even very experienced laryngoscopists will learn from viewing

this video. Collectively, this series represents the best educational tool on laryngoscopy that I have seen.

Richard M. Cooper MD FRCPC
Toronto, Ontario

Uncommon Problems in Intensive Care

J.F. Cade (Ed.). Greenwich Medical Media Limited, 2002. 381 pages. ISBN 1-841100-91-9

The stated aim of the authors in producing this text is to provide a reference to uncommon problems relevant to intensive care medicine, in a single volume. They have largely succeeded in achieving their goal.

The text is laid out as an encyclopedia, with topics presented in alphabetical order and extending over 381 pages. Topics may be covered in several paragraphs or over several pages.

This book can be praised for its breadth of topics, while being condemned for its lack of depth. The topics are generally covered briefly. Information regarding therapeutic options would need to be sought elsewhere in most cases. The references vary from very old to very recent.

On reviewing the text, I found errors in several topics. Under malignant hyperthermia it was stated that milder forms of the disease may be inherited as an autosomal recessive condition. It was also stated that local anesthetics should be used with caution in late pregnancy. I was also disappointed to find that SI units were not used, specifically, in the section under methanol poisoning.

I would recommend this text for use as a quick reference source. The title suggests that it be reserved for critical care units and physicians. It, in fact, is a reference source of uncommon problems in medicine, most of which are relevant to critical care.

The lack of depth limits the usefulness of the text, but depth was not the goal of its creators. It can be used as an encyclopedia of topics relevant to the very sick and it is there that it will likely find its niche.

Fred Baxter MD
Hamilton, Ontario