Book & New Media Reviews

Principles of Airway Management. Third Edition

Brendan T. Finucane, Albert H. Santora (Eds).

Springer-Verlag New York Inc., 2003. 503 pages.

\$59.95 (US). ISBN 0-387-95530-5

This is the third edition of Drs. Finucane and Santora's book on airway management. Although this topic is certainly at the centre of the daily practice of anesthesiology, its importance transcends many specialties. In this edition, the authors describe with great details many techniques, most of them pertaining to tracheal intubation. The chapters on direct laryngoscopy and fiberoptic intubation are of great interest, whether the reader is a beginner who is looking for a comprehensive review of these techniques, or a seasoned practitioner who wishes to add a few tricks to his armamentarium. The author chose to put little emphasis on most alternative airway devices. The use of the Combitube™ is only summarily described and the COPA™ is barely alluded to. Other available devices, including the Laryngeal Tube™ and the PAXpress™ are not mentioned. On the other hand, the authors went to great lengths to describe the ever-increasing role played by the different versions of the Laryngeal Mask Airway™. The authors have also included some information that goes beyond airway management regarding cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Although some may read such a book from cover to cover, it is more likely that clinicians will consult the condensed and precise information it contains on a need-to-know basis. In that regard, readers will certainly appreciate the clear division of the chapters and the comprehensive index section.

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Hypothermia and Cerebral Ischemia: Mechanisms and Clinical Applications

Carolina M. Maier, Gary K. Steinberg (Eds).

The Haworth Press Inc., 2004. 188 pages. ISBN 0-89603-660-X

There has been cyclic interest over the last 50 years in the potential cerebral protective benefits of hypothermia. Over the past 15 years the focus has been on the potential benefits of mild (32–34°C) hypothermia. Some of the earliest but rarely quoted experimental studies of mild hypothermia were published in the anesthesia literature in the early 1980's.

Hypothermia and Cerebral Ischemia: Mechanisms and Clinical Applications is an easily readable book comprising ten chapters. The chapters are authored by international experts, mainly from the U.S.A. but also from Canada, Japan and Germany. The chapters deal with molecular biology, *in vivo* experiments and clinical trials relating to focal and global ischemia, and head trauma. There is, not surprisingly, much overlap between chapters as there is still much speculation about potential protective mechanisms in the different pathologies. The advantage however of such overlap is that each chapter could be read as an independent review without the need to necessarily read the entire book from cover to cover.

This book is an easily understood "snap shot" of the current state of knowledge. The chapters are more than adequately referenced and current so that the interested reader can use them as springboards for more in-depth reading if desired. This is a topical field that is changing rapidly especially with the ongoing clinical trials and this book presents useful background to understanding and interpreting those results as they come out.

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