Book & New Media Reviews

Clinical Applications of Anesthesia

Aparna Dalal (Ed.). Bhalani Publishers House, 2003. 481 pages. ISBN 81 85578 59 1

This information packed book is primarily intended for residents as a summary study guide for their final clinical examination. However, residents and qualified anesthesiologists will find that it contains much useful information for day-to-day use.

The detailed text is supported by a considerable amount of tables, management menus and illustrations. The book is divided into 12 sections, the first being devoted to the anesthesia sub-specialties. Some sub-specialty subsections have an opening chapter entitled "proforma." Basically this covers the essential items of a history and physical examination in a patient with e.g., cardiac disease. This is most useful when preparing for a clinical examination, which is still part of the examination process in some countries, the author's home country being a notable example. The later sections are fairly logically laid out but intraoperative patient monitoring is scattered throughout the sections and there is only a passing mention of capnography.

The author and colleagues work in the teaching hospital system in Mumbai, India, and accordingly the anesthetic management protocols will reflect the practice in that area to a certain extent. However, the book is a useful addition to the growing collection of clinical anesthesia texts. Many will find the format to their liking.

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Pediatric Pain: Biological and Social Context. Progress in Pain Research and Management, volume 26

Patrick J. McGrath, G. Allen Finley (Eds.). IASP Secretariat, 2003. 225 pages. Retail price \$76.00 (US), IASP member price \$57.00 (US). ISBN 0-931092-49-3

This is a first-class book if you have any interest in pediatric pain management. It is not as entertaining as the conference was, but the authors of the different chapters have taken the opportunity to expand upon the topics that they presented at the conference itself. Thus, the end result is an excellent reference manual. The International Forum on Pediatric Pain, of which this was the fourth, have been an excellent series of meetings bringing a group of reasonable size together in a very pleasant setting every other year to discuss practical and theoretical aspects of pediatric pain management and research.

This volume effectively presents the wide range of topics that was covered. It begins with experimental animal work about the physiological impact of pain on the developing organism, proceeds to the impact of pain on behaviours such as self regulation, genetic tools for study, social development, family factors, the impact of chronic illness and pain, social influences, and finally regulatory policies and the availability of opioids for children.

Canadian authors are well represented, with research groups from UBC, Dalhousie, McGill and the University of Saskatchewan. Speakers from the USA, especially the dynamic group at Little Rock Arkansas headed by KJS Anand, and Uppsala University, Sweden added to the International roster. The 5th International Forum is this fall- join the group.

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