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Contributions to Nephrology

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Dysfunction

Claudio Ronco, Rinaldo Bellomo, Alessandra Brendolan (Eds). Karger Inc., 2004. 404 pages.
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Renal failure and the intensive care unit (ICU) physician

Ronco, Bellomo and co-workers review acute renal failure and extra-corporeal renal support in the ICU with an expert panel of co-workers. The wide panel of authors is reflected by the wide variation of the quality of the different book sections. Several chapters are of special interest to the clinician, in particular the chapter on fluid and electrolytes, sodium, diuretics and the chapters on the practical aspects of continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT). The practical aspects of CRRT (the data in this field are scarce), are well described and constitute very useful references for clinicians dealing with patients under extra-corporeal renal support. Daily bedside problems/queries such as vascular accesses, circuits, anticoagulation, hemodialysis efficiency are well described.

Other chapters on the physiopathology of multiple organ failure or lung-kidney interactions provide more insight to clinicians and may open the way to future therapies. However, the chapters on sepsis, vasopressors and glucose control, while clinically relevant, are too basic or unrelated to the book's main topic. There are several redundancies and the multiple chapters on vascular access, fluid composition or anticoagulation should have been grouped.

In conclusion I would recommend selected chapters to the clinician dealing with ICU patients with acute renal failure and extra-corporeal renal replacement therapy. These chapters provide useful answers to daily questions.

David Bracco MD
Montréal, Québec