Book & New Media Reviews

Complications in Anesthesiology

Emilio B. Lobato, Nikolaus Gravenstein, Robert R. Kirby (Eds). Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, 2008, US \$159, 1008 pages. ISBN 13: 9-780-7817-8263-0; ISBN 10: 0-7817-8263-5

This publication is divided into the following five, distinct sections: I General and medicolegal considerations; II Perioperative clinical considerations (ten subsections); III Equipment; IV Anesthetic techniques; V Pharmacologic; and VI Risks to the anesthesiologist. Each of the five sections is divided into chapters, of which there are 69 in total. Each of the sections, or subsections, is edited by one of the principal editors; and between one to four authors has contributed informative material to each of the chapters. As well, many of the authors are notable authorities in the fields about which they are writing.

Each chapter begins with an illustrative case summary and follows with a detailed discussion of the relevant material, employing a question posed and answer given format. The chapters are well written; and the writing style is consistent throughout the text. Tables, diagrams, and clinical images are frequently employed to enhance the written material. The material is referenced appropriately; and effort appears to have been made, in the majority of chapters, to restrict the number of references to those that are most recent and relevant.

Although the text contains chapters dealing with a wide array of clinical topics, the section on pharmacology is brief and, notably, a discussion of the occurrence and consequences of medication errors is absent. This omission in a text devoted to anesthesia complications is surprising, given the adverse patient impact that such errors have in anesthesia practice. However, other important topical deficiencies are not prominent in the text.

It would take a resilient and perseverant reader to consume this volume from cover to cover; however, in so doing, the reader would be well rewarded. It is more likely that most readers would look to this publication as a source for current and useful information on a wide variety of topics relevant to modern anesthesia practice. Departmental and hospital librarians are encouraged to consider this text for inclusion

in the reference section devoted to clinical anesthesia practice.

For comparison purposes, I briefly appraised a similarly titled text, *Complications in Anesthesia*, 2nd edition, edited by J.L. Atlee and published by Elsevier in 2007. This latter text comprises 244 chapters which, compared with those in the text by Lobato *et al.*, are much shorter and are focused on the management of a specific clinical problem. The two texts differ in both organization and orientation.

Edward T. Crosby MD FRCPC
The Ottawa Hospital, University of Ottawa, Ottawa,
Canada