Book & New Media Reviews

Trauma - Emergency Resuscitation, Perioperative Anesthesia, Surgical Management - Volume 1

William C. Wilson, Christopher M. Grande, David B. Hoyt (Editors). Informa Healthcare USA, Inc., 2007. 867 pages. ISBN-10: 0-8247-2919-6 (Hardcover); ISBN-13: 978-0-8247-2919-6 (Hardcover)

In this modern era, where information is readily available at the touch of a button and there are a plethora of books all competing for your library shelf, occasionally a text comes along that serves as the authority on a given subject. I believe that Trauma Volume 1 will serve as the gold standard to which all other publications on this subject will be compared.

This trauma reference is part of a two volume compendium that provides a comprehensive review on emergency resuscitation, perioperative anesthesia and surgical management. It is targeted to all physicians involved in trauma care instead of focusing on just one discipline. This makes for very interesting reading and gives insight into different specialties and their specific concerns regarding a clinical problem.

The Editors are well known and respected in the fields of trauma anesthesia, surgery and intensive care. They have done a wonderful job in the organization of the text. Volume 1 is broken down into five main sections that cover the gamut from injury to intensive care unit admission: Preparation and Prehospital care, Trauma Resuscitation and Emergency Department Management, Anesthetic and Damage Control for Trauma, Anesthetic and Surgical Considerations for Specific Injuries and Special Conditions Associated with Trauma.

Each chapter conforms to a template on a particular subject and provides a comprehensive review. Current controversies in all aspects of trauma care are noted and discussed. Evidence based guidelines are included when appropriate. Of particular interest is the incorporation of first hand experience and knowledge acquired from recent conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. Key points are highlighted in bold font. Each chapter wraps up with an eye to the future, summary and compilation of key points. There is a comprehensive table of contents and index. References are current and there is very little duplication of information despite multiple authors. Instead, there is meticu-

lous cross referencing when appropriate. To pick out a particular chapter as a "must read" would be doing the reader a disservice, as most of the chapters fit this description.

Most anesthesiologists deal with trauma related injuries on a routine basis. Experience gained with these patients is often used to guide our anesthetic plan in the elective situation. With this in mind, I highly recommend this reference text to all anesthesiologists involved in trauma care. Residents and fellows will also gain significant insight, enhance their global knowledge base, and become well rounded practitioners through the expertise of the many contributing authors to this text.

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Trauma - Critical Care - Volume 2

William C. Wilson, Christopher M. Grande, David B. Hoyt (Editors). Informa Healthcare USA, 2007. \$299.95 US. ISBN 0-8247-2920-X (Hardcover)

The critical care management of today's trauma patient has become much more complex due to new monitoring devices, advanced diagnostic tools, and the data derived from evidence-based medicine. Multidisciplinary critical care teams, including physicians from different training backgrounds and specialties, are now often responsible for managing trauma patients. These specialists need to remain abreast of the broad range of diagnostic and therapeutic developments in this rapidly evolving field. In this context, Trauma - Critical Care is a welcome addition to the published literature.

Trauma - Critical Care is a two-volume multi-authored text from a multidisciplinary background of contributors and editors who achieve the objective of cementing the two specialties of Trauma and Critical Care. The editors, Wilson, Grande and Hoyt are greatly respected in both trauma and critical care, which enhances the book's credibility. Volume 1 deals with the basics of trauma, resuscitation, perioperative

management and surgery, and is discussed in a different review.

Volume 2 focuses on post-resuscitation care and its complications. This volume includes an extensive table of contents that spans the field: how to provide care to trauma patients; how to identify complex injuries, and how to prevent and manage complications. Each chapter includes a brief review of the relevant physiology and related basic science which helps to reinforce important concepts that are sometimes forgotten. The information is accurate and current and the issues addressed by evidence-based medicine are well integrated and discussed. The visual aids and graphic representations enhance the text and should improve the reader's comprehension. Each chapter concludes with a summary and list of key points that provide essential "take home messages". The reference lists are detailed and current.

In this text you find an extensive review of critical care monitoring followed by a discussion of the complications one can anticipate in every body system following traumatic injury. Finally, there are essential chapters addressing the psychological and ethical consideration of trauma critical care. Those working in trauma and intensive care units will recognize their importance and confirm that these considerations frequently require as much time and energy as the initial resuscitation.

In summary, Trauma - Critical Care happily surprises us as being an important contribution to the field as a result of excellent writing style and organization, and an extensive and authoritative review of the subject material. This book is highly recommended to anyone who is providing care to trauma patients and for those who are training in critical care/trauma.

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