Book Review

Epidural and Spinal Blockade in Obstetrics

Felicity Reynolds (Ed.) Baillière Tindall, London, 1990.
pp. 250. £17.50/\$43.95. ISBN 0-7020-1401-X

"Epidural and Spinal Blockade in Obstetrics," edited by Felicity Reynolds, is a handbook written by obstetrical anaesthetists for the practicing anaesthetist involved with obstetrical anaesthesia. Reynolds edits the contributions of 33 authors into chapters of concise and uniform quality, which, without exception, are excellent. Although mainly from the United Kingdom, there are several American authors contributing to the international flavour of the book.

Chapters include sections on basic anatomy, complications of regional techniques, management of labour, Caesarean section, spinal opioids, and effects on the fetus. Chapters within these sections are packed with information on the history and development of modern obstetrical anaesthetic practice, and with pearls of wisdom for the current anaesthetist. Sections by the authors on "How to do it" are based on a tremendous clinical background and from experience culled from both the old and new literature.

There are also chapters on current research. These areas address present controversies in obstetrical anaesthesia, and each of these is followed by discussions and arguments from the experts concerning their opinions on the topic. This allows this handbook to be up-to-date in its content of obstetrical practice.

In summary, this is an excellent handbook for the practicing anaesthetist involved with obstetrical cases. I would recommend it strongly to both beginners and established practitioners.

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