Core Topics in Airway Management, Second Edition

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This second edition of *Core Topics in Airway Management* is a substantial improvement over the inaugural edition of the book. This hardcover text includes 32 chapters which are organized into five sections: “Basic Science” (40 pages), “Clinical” (150 pages), “Specialties” (100 pages), “Ethics and the Law” (ten pages), and “Exam Questions” (ten pages). Each chapter includes colour illustrations, well-labelled diagrams, and a “Key Points” section which is followed by a list of suggested articles for further reading. Unfortunately, the material is not referenced. More than 30 authors have contributed to this edition, with the majority practicing in the United Kingdom.

The “Basic Science” section of the text opens with an entertaining chapter on airway anatomy and reviews the fundamental topics of physiology, physics, and airway reflexes. The chapter on physics and physiology is presented in a clinically relevant manner, and a new chapter on airway reflexes includes a review of airway innervation, effects of different anesthetic agents on airway reflexes, and mechanisms involved in the maintenance of airway patency.

The “Clinical” section is the largest section of the book. The chapters in this section cover the basic principles of airway management, various equipment and techniques for tracheal intubation, and complications of airway management and obstructive sleep apnea. The chapters describing different tracheal intubation techniques have been improved and expanded. Although many of the chapter titles have been renamed, the majority are written by the same authors as in the first edition.

The “Specialties” section includes three new chapters which address bariatrics, dental anesthesia, and airway management with limited resources. In the chapter on airway management with limited resources, there is a discussion of techniques that require minimal equipment. This chapter is perhaps the most interesting in the book and could be particularly useful for anesthesia providers who plan to teach or provide anesthesia services in developing nations with limited anesthesia equipment.

The fourth section of the book includes two chapters on ethical issues and legal aspects of airway management which cite case law in the United Kingdom and guidelines put forward by the General Medical Council and the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland. The chapter on ethical issues is a new addition to the text which covers situations such as patients refusing awake intubation and participation of trainees.

The final chapter comprises 12 sample oral examination questions which are well planned in preparation for the Fellowship of the Royal College of Anaesthetists (FRCA) exam. The questions cover common clinical scenarios and answers are provided. Canadian candidates preparing for their specialty certification examinations will undoubtedly benefit from this section of the book.

In summary, *Core Topics in Airway Management* is a concise, interesting, well-written, and appropriately illustrated text. As the title suggests, the book provides an excellent overview of the core topics, but it is by no means a comprehensive text on airway management. Trainees and staff anesthesiologists alike should find this book to be a useful addition to their library.

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