

Book Reviews

Invasive Procedures in Critical Care

C.L. Sprung, A. Grenvik. ISBN #04430833371.
Academic Press Canada, Don Mills \$56.75

While there are several books available which give step-by-step instructions with many diagrams and pictures for the performance of procedures in intensive care units, this text is not one of these. It is a didactic work, stressing the theory, indications, contraindications and complications of these procedures. Some pictures and diagrams are available, many dealing with complications rather than procedures, but many chapters, including those concerning pulmonary artery catheterization, thoracentesis, bronchoscopy, peritoneal lavage, dialysis or endoscopy have no visual aids.

As each chapter is written by different authors, each, as would be expected, has its own style and organization which may be disturbing to some readers. As well, it is sometimes unclear whether the chapter is written for the specialist in the area, to instruct the non-expert in carrying out the procedure, or simply to inform the uninitiated what to expect from a given procedure.

On the positive side, the book is well-referenced, and brings together in one place many facets of information concerning invasive procedures which may not be immediately available without a lot of searching.

The reviewer suggests that in the next edition the editors be more specific in the purpose of the text, its organization and presentation. While not a manual as such, this book is a reasonable addition to a critical care library.

H.R. Wexler MD FRCPC
Department of Anaesthesia
University of Western Ontario
London, Ontario

Extracorporeal Shock-Wave Lithotripsy for Renal Stone Disease – Technical and Clinical Aspects

J.S. Gravenstein, K. Peter. Butterworth Publishers, Stoneham MA. \$19.95 (us)

This book is based on the proceedings of a symposium held in January, 1985. It is divided into three sections. The first deals with the background of Extracorporeal Shock Wave Lithotripsy (ESWL) and includes chapters on physical aspects of shock wave treatment, geometry of

and pressures with ESWL, and electrical safety of the Dornier Lithotripter. The second section deals with clinical approaches and experience with ESWL and includes three chapters on anaesthesia for ESWL, two of which deal with use of high frequency jet ventilation to reduce stone movement. The third chapter deals with problems with ESWL. Specific problems dealt with are cardiovascular effects related to immersion, deep venous thrombosis, ventricular tachycardia, and the possibility of hypertension developing after treatment.

In January 1985 the Dornier Lithotripter was the only lithotripter in general clinical use. Almost the entire book therefore specifically relates to the Dornier machine. At present, new machines are being introduced by other companies using different types of shock wave generators, different imaging systems, no patient immersion, and considerably reduced anaesthetic requirements. Recently, reports in the urological and radiological literature have considerably expanded on the clinical experience and magnetic resonance findings after treatment.

In summary, this book provides dated and limited information on ESWL using a Dornier Lithotripter. Even for those who own a Dornier unit, most of the information in this book is more extensively covered in more recent literature.

Denis H. Hosking FRCSC
Section of Urology
Department of Surgery
Health Sciences Centre
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Cardiovascular Actions of Anesthetics and Drugs Used in Anesthesia I-Basic Aspects.

B.M. Altura, S. Halevy (Eds). Karger, New York, 1986, 268 pp. \$108.50 (us) ISBN #3-8055-4159-7

This multi-authored text is volume one of a two-volume set. Its primary focus is pharmacodynamic cardiovascular interactions. The authors are all established investigators, the majority from the U.S., with some international representation.

The chapters on haemodynamic effects of muscle relaxants and general anaesthetics are both well-written overviews. Chapters on intravenous anaesthetics, and cardiovascular effects of neurohumoral substances are included but are disappointingly cursory. The cardio-

vascular drug interactions chapter contains a brief but appropriately detailed section on the renin-angiotensin system and various inhibitors. The unreferenced description of phenoxybenzamine as a non-selective alpha-1 antagonist instead of a moderately selective alpha-1 antagonist raises some concern about overall accuracy and authority. A chapter on the circulatory effects of neuroleptics gives some historical perspective on the development of neurolept anaesthesia as well as providing an in-depth examination of their mechanisms of action. A potential limitation of this chapter is that many of the compounds discussed are only available or used clinically in Europe. The chapter on cardiovascular actions of narcotic analgesics presents a discussion of their effects on both haemodynamics and myocardial metabolism.

In summary, most of this information is available piecemeal in other texts but is presented here in one volume, from a cardiovascular perspective. Though expensive it could be of value as a cardiovascular reference in a departmental library.

John M. Murkin
Department of Anaesthesia
University of Western Ontario
London, Ontario

Cardiac Catheterization and Angiography

William Grossman, (Ed) Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia, ISBN #0-8121-0994-5, Edition 3 (1986)

This text is widely recognized within the cardiology community as the "Bible" of cardiac catheterization. In this third edition, Grossman has again presented a well-organized text, with contributions from 22 other recognized authors. The result is a text which covers the field of cardiac catheterization as it is known today.

The book is divided into seven sections, with the first four sections providing both a historical background and a review of current techniques for catheterization in the lab today. The next two sections relate to evaluation of cardiac function and interpretation of catheterization data, and are the most useful sections of the book to practicing anaesthetists. The final section deals with special catheterization techniques, with an interesting final chapter on the potential future role of lasers in the catheterization laboratory.

In the preface, Grossman states "this textbook in both its conception and design is aimed at the instruction of physicians training to become cardiologists." History has proven Grossman has already succeeded in his goal with the first and second editions. The book is not, however,

aimed at practicing anaesthetists, and I can't recommend it as an essential text for individual anaesthetists.

Its main role from an anaesthetic point of view will be to provide a reference source for interpretation and assessment of cardiac catheterization data.

Don Paetkau MD FRCPC
Department of Anesthesia
University of Manitoba
Health Sciences Centre
Winnipeg, Manitoba