

## Book Reviews

### **The Education and Teaching of Anaesthesiology in Israel**

*G. Gorman and Y. Bar-Lavie* (Eds.). Tel Aviv: Breirot Publishers 1992

This very brief monograph written in Hebrew with an English translation sets as its goals the examination of the teaching of anaesthesia, recruitment into the specialty and the position of the clinician and clinician teacher in the Israeli medical system. In fact, the authors raise issues which are major concerns for many North American academic departments of anaesthesia. However, one need only read the table of contents to realize the breadth of the topics in this short monograph and to conclude that its brevity will by necessity limit broad analysis and discussion.

The authors are devoted clinicians and teachers who communicate their criticisms of the Israeli system of residency teaching and the effects of a shortage of trained anaesthetists, the latter being somewhat relieved by the recent immigration of physicians from the former Soviet Union. The longest and most interesting section is devoted to the education of residents and the authors' views on teaching techniques and the guidance and evaluation of their students. The remaining sections briefly cover the teaching of anaesthesia to non-anaesthetists, for example nurses, anaesthetists' assistants and to residents from other specialities. In the chapter on undergraduate teaching (nine pages) pertinent questions are posed in regard to the curriculum and the best time to introduce students into the specialty. The 80 references are relevant and are mostly from the recent literature. In the sections checked, the English translation follows the Hebrew. A few transliteration errors were noted.

In summary, this monograph will be of interest to those who are involved in the teaching of anaesthesia and who wish to compare their experience and problems with others working in different and sometimes difficult circumstances.

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### **Handbook of Percutaneous Central Venous Catheterisation (2nd Ed.)**

*M. Rosen, P. Latto, S. Ng.* W.B. Saunders Company Ltd., London, 1992. 249 pp. ISBN: 0-7020-1539-3. \$19.95 (US)

The major theme and purpose of the book is not stated by the authors and is still unclear after reading the book. The first chapter is entitled "Choosing the Vein." The anatomical descriptions are poor. There is no information offered regarding considerations in choosing the veins such as ease of cannulation and risk of complications.

The title of the second chapter "Choosing the Equipment" is a misnomer. This chapter consists of a catalogue of the different generic types of catheters available with examples taken from United Kingdom practice. It is stated by the authors that 99% of insertions of catheters into the central circulation are small and used only for measuring central venous pressure and infusing drugs, and 1% of such catheters are larger for rapid infusion of fluids. This is far from our Canadian practice.

The third chapter entitled "Practical Aspects of Technique" is again disappointing. It reviews the literature at length about types of dressing to use on the insertion site but gives no other practical insights of the practical aspects of insertion techniques.

The remaining chapters discuss a series of different insertion techniques for different sites. This is again a cataloguing of information in standard format. Each technique is paraphrased from the original such that about 90% of the description and diagrams appear to be identical and redundant. There is no discussion of the various techniques putting them into perspective. There are few if any pointers emanating from experience with these techniques. Each technique is followed by repeating the claimed high success and low complication rate of its original author without further comment by the authors of the book.

Good points about this book include the diagrams: line drawings which are neat and stylised. The descriptions of insertion are brief, stylised under standard headings. Newer insertion techniques such as use of ultrasound guide and needles are mentioned and there is a very extensive bibliography.

In summary, this is a dry catalogue of methods of central venous cannulation presented without a clear purpose and little insight. It is not suitable for residents as descriptions of techniques and complications are incomplete.

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