
Book Reviews

Hemostasis in Cardiac Surgery

Safuh Attar (Ed.). Futura Publishing Company, Inc., 1999. 272 pages. \$74.00 (US). ISBN 0-87993-410-7

Hemostasis in Cardiac Surgery, written by 17 contributors, was planned as a comprehensive manual of coagulation problems related to cardiac surgery.

Like many multi-authored books, this book suffers from unevenly written chapters. The layout of chapters can be difficult to follow. Chapters 2, 5 and 7 are very informative but, in Chapter 7, too much emphasis is put on diagnosing hemostatic deficiencies during and after CPB in that most methods described are mostly of theoretical value. Chapter 1 (Anticoagulation for CPB) is very brief and it brushes off Heparin-Induced Thrombocytopenia (HIT) as a rare event, even though many see it as an increasingly common potentially catastrophic problem. Alternatives to heparin are poorly presented and danaparoid is omitted entirely. Descriptions of pharmacological agents used in preventing excessive bleeding in cardiac surgery are scattered in three different chapters, and no fair comparison of their efficacy is attempted. This book also lacks a discussion of the risk factors for blood transfusion in cardiac surgery. Preoperative anemia is not discussed (preoperative anemia is the strongest predictor for blood transfusion).

Preoperative use of ASA and the newer antiplatelet agents (abciximab, tirofiban, eptafibatide and ticlopidine) is not mentioned, nor is management of recent perioperative thrombolytic therapy mentioned. Postoperative anticoagulation is totally omitted from the content of this book.

In summary, this book cannot be recommended.

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