
Book Reviews

Fiberoptic Endoscopy and the Difficult Airway, 2nd ed.

Andranik Ovassapian. Lippincott-Raven Publishers, 1996. 279 pages. \$135.00 (US)
ISBN 0-7817-0272-0

You have taken the hands-on course on fiberoptic assisted intubation and the hospital has purchased the necessary equipment. The patient experience will come, albeit slowly and unpredictably. What you really need to consolidate your skills in airway management is a comprehensive book that details all the "tricks of the trade." This is the book for you!

Dr. Ovassapian is a highly regarded anaesthetist with special skills in fiberoptic endoscopic techniques that can solve a variety of thorny airway problems. His talents as an educator are evident in this well organized, extensively illustrated Second Edition of his original textbook *Fiberoptic Airway Endoscopy in Anaesthesia and Critical Care*. The new title reflects the additional emphasis on management of the difficult airway and the use of the fiberoptic bronchoscope as a necessary adjunct.

The early chapters on equipment, airway anatomy and radiology are second to none. These progress on to topical anaesthesia, the proper use of conscious sedation, and techniques of fiberoptic intubation. Many of the pitfalls of fiberoptic assisted airway management are discussed and solutions provided. Even experienced airway endoscopists will find helpful strategies, all well illustrated. Paediatric techniques and selective bronchial intubation are fully discussed. The last part of the book deals with the difficult airway, its prediction and management with particular (but not sole) emphasis on endoscopic techniques. The laryngeal mask and oesophageal devices are described with particular emphasis on their use for endoscopic intubation. The oft dreaded "tube change in ICU" and the extubation of the difficult airway are fully discussed in separate chapters.

The anaesthesia community provides a critical readership for such a book. Dr. Ovassapian has succeeded in providing a useful addition to the anaesthesia literature. I would recommend this book as essential for all anaesthetic departments and as a valuable addition to the personal libraries of even those anaesthetists with

extensive clinical experience with fiberoptic assisted airway management.

David Malm MD FRCPC
Vancouver, B.C.

Image-Guided Pain Management

P. Sebastian Thomas (Ed.). Lippincott-Raven Publishers, 1997. 194 pages. \$75.00 (US)
ISBN 0-397-51743-2

Dr. Sebastian Thomas and his colleagues from SUNY Health Center in Syracuse New York present in this short book a compilation of pain relieving techniques employed at their institution. This book is unique in that it only deals with radiographic assisted techniques. It is written for pain physicians with emphasis placed on the more complex procedures. The 21 short chapters fall into four sections: theory of radiography and contrast materials, complex cranial nerve blocks, more commonly performed techniques such as lumbar sympathetic and facet injections, and finally chapters on discography and spinal cord stimulation.

Each chapter contains a great deal of practical information and tips on technique, much of which is not found in standard textbooks and atlases of regional anaesthesia. The chapter on percutaneous balloon compression of the trigeminal ganglion is particularly interesting while the chapters on lumbar sympathetic blocks and spinal cord stimulation are well written and informative. A valuable reference base is provided with each chapter.

Unfortunately, there is no consistency in the format of the chapters, only some of which have case histories. Radiographs tend to be poorly reproduced, lack clarity, and in many instances are missing labels. One radiograph is upside-down. Photographs (e.g., a CT scan machine) are of no educational value to the intended readership. Particularly frustrating is the lack of diagrams accompanying the complex descriptions of anatomy in each chapter. Missing is a section on fluoroscopic-guided coeliac plexus block.

This book will be of interest to a small number of highly specialized anaesthetists. While the premise is interesting, the presentation is flawed.

W.N. McDonald
Vancouver, B.C.

Anesthesiology. A Comprehensive Study Guide

Jeffrey Katz. McGraw Hill Inc., 1997. 622 pages.
\$72.50. ISBN 0-07-033986-4

The authors of this book are attempting to fill a gap they have identified in the anaesthesia literature which is that of a comprehensive textbook to provide material for the ABA written examination in a lecture note format.

It is a condensed and incomplete version of an un referenced source of information on anaesthesia in a mostly lecture note format. It is divided into four sections: a review of each of the organ systems, pharmacological principles, principles of technology and measurement, and special clinical situations. Each section is divided into chapters that are neither logical nor thorough. The authors acknowledge repetition due to independent authorship and omissions and brief presentations due to lack of space and future books planned. This does not excuse the disorganized approach which is confusing to the reader.

While there are clear titles and headings in the text and an attempt to remain consistent in the nomenclature, one finds flumazenil and naloxone listed as intravenous induction agents. Visually, this book is challenging in that it presents almost 600 pages of "facts" with very few tables, graphs and illustrations to aid memorization; existing tables are variably relevant. While areas of anaesthesia, such as regional anaesthesia, are incompletely discussed certain topics are beyond the scope of conventional knowledge in anaesthesia and are unlikely topics for the certification examination. The latter comment refers to the section on applied mathematics and detailed discussion of electricity.

In summary, this book is neither comprehensive nor a study guide. It may be useful as a reference text when residents preparing for the American Board examination are reviewing question banks. However, poor organization, lack of comprehensiveness and the inclusion of much trivial detail make it inferior for consultation to any of the major comprehensive texts currently available.

Ramona Kearney MD FRCPC
Alberta, Edmonton

**Anesthésie, Édité par Ronald D. Miller. (Erratum)
Traduction dirigée par Paul J. Zetlaoui.**

Médecine-Sciences, Flammarion, 2798 pages. \$538.50

Ce volume constitue la première traduction française du très populaire manuel édité par Ronald D. Miller, et qui en est à sa quatrième édition en langue anglaise. Le texte original est l'oeuvre de 123 auteurs dont la plupart sont

américains. Une équipe de 57 personnes, presque toutes anesthésistes-réanimateurs, a réalisé la traduction française. Le travail a été réparti à raison d'un ou deux traducteurs pour chacun des 86 chapitres, en fonction des intérêts et de l'expertise de chacun. Deux auteurs de l'édition originale ont traduit leurs propres textes. Le contenu de l'ouvrage est la traduction fidèle de la quatrième édition du manuel anglais, publiée en 1994 et dont les dernières références citées remontent à 1993. Après une courte introduction, on passe aux principes scientifiques de l'anesthésie, à la prise en charge du patient, puis à l'anesthésie par spécialité. On ne consacre que 200 pages à la réanimation (soins intensifs) et le livre se termine par des sujets se rapportant à la vie professionnelle de l'anesthésiste. La version française remplit exactement le même nombre de pages que le texte anglais. Les tableaux et les illustrations sont souvent placés au même endroit dans les deux éditions. On a tout au plus rogné quelque peu sur les marges, afin d'accommoder un texte français un peu plus long. On retrouve des termes français acceptés et précis partout, en particulier dans les illustrations et les tableaux. En raison du grand nombre d'auteurs et de traducteurs, le résultat final est loin d'être uniforme. Par exemple, certains traducteurs ont plus de facilité que d'autres à éviter la forme passive, acceptable en anglais mais plus lourde en français. Dans l'ensemble, toutefois, les auteurs ont bien rendu le texte original et la maison d'édition nous sert une présentation soignée. Cette première édition du Miller en français sera certainement appréciée des francophones qui ont quelque difficulté à se retrouver dans la langue de Shakespeare, et de ceux qui recherchent le mot juste dans celle de Molière. Malheureusement, le plaisir de lire en français coûte cher!

François Donati PhD MD FRCPC
Montréal

(NDLR : Dans le but de rendre justice à l'auteur de l'analyse ainsi qu'à l'éditeur, aux collaborateurs et traducteurs de ce volume, nous reproduisons avec nos excuses la version originale du texte tronqué et défiguré paru en juillet à la page 790).