
Book Reviews

Gas Monitoring in Clinical Practice, 2nd Edition

J.S. Gravenstein, David A. Paulus, Thomas J. Hayes.
Butterworth-Heinemann, Newton, MA, 1994. 202 Pages.
\$45.00 (US). ISBN 0-7506-9445-9.

This specialised volume is an expanded version of the authors' previous text entitled *Capnography in Clinical Practice*. The book is sensibly divided into two sections which cover the clinical and technical aspects of the subject. The authors have been careful to avoid unnecessary repetition and cross-references are given when necessary to allow the reader to find additional technical information. The first part includes clinical interpretation of the capnogram, the importance of water vapour, oxygen and nitrogen, uptake and distribution of anaesthetic vapours, sampling and the measurement of pressure and flow waveforms. The majority of the material presented in chapters 5 to 9 will be already familiar to the reader whilst some less familiar areas such as servo control of gas and vapour concentrations are not mentioned.

The second part of the book presents the technical aspects of respiratory gas monitoring. It is here that the authors demonstrate the depth of their knowledge. The physical properties of the gases, and the general problems of adequate response time, waveform fidelity, interference and corrections for temperature and water vapour, the advantages and disadvantages of the different physical methods used to measure respired gas concentrations, the differences between sidestream and mainstream sampling are explained in detail. The only disappointment is in the field of waveform processing, a topic which is often obscured by manufacturers' proprietary concerns.

Whilst this book contains no new material it collates a wide range of information found in such diverse sources as respiratory physiology texts, clinical monitoring reviews and the principles of measurement section of individual operator's manual. Unfortunately, many of the illustrations are snapshots taken from monitor screens which are neither uniform in style nor in the presentation of the waveforms and contain a lot of irrelevant data. An appreciable number of errors are found in the figure legends. This is a book which will be of interest to those involved in teaching and in the purchase of monitoring equipment as well as a useful reference book for every departmental library.

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Year Book of Pain – 1994

G.F. Gebhart, J.D. Haddox, A. Jacox, N.A. Janjan, T.E. Rudy, B.S. Shapiro (Eds.). Mosby Year Book, Inc. 1994.
458 pages. 85.25 (US). ISBN: 0-8151-3401-0.

As outlined in the "statement of purpose" the editors of this book survey an extremely wide range of journals and over a quarter of a million articles and select a small number of those that they consider add considerably to our knowledge of the aetiology, pathology and treatment of acute and chronic pain. Because the number of journals surveyed is over 1,000 and the range is from *Advances in Nursing Science* to *Clinical Biomechanics*, the subject matter is extremely diverse: everything from clinical pain studies (often anecdotal) to esoteric basic science is included. If the object of the book is to give an overall picture of "what's going on" in acute and chronic pain then the editors have succeeded. However, it is difficult to recommend this book to someone who has a specific interest in one particular aspect of pain, for example reflex sympathetic dystrophy. There are two articles on this subject, neither of which reflect the new theories to the aetiology and directions that pain therapy is taking in this particular syndrome. The commentaries at the end of each article are short (sometimes very short!) and for the most part are not particularly illuminating. Fortunately the index, both subject and author, is comprehensive and enables one to identify those articles of particular interest quickly.

In summary, this is a gallant attempt to survey the field of acute and chronic pain. However, one has to wonder if this type of book is now anachronistic, especially with the many other ways we have of accessing special interest information banks. However, it probably should be included in every hospital library along with the multiple of other "Year Books."

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Anesthesia and Intensive Care for Patients with Liver Disease

Gilbert R. Park, Yoogoo Kang (Eds.). Butterworth-Heinemann, 1995. 271 pages. \$85.00 (US). ISBN: 0-7506-9554-4

This book covers the perioperative care of patients with liver disease, including preoperative testing, anaesthetic considerations, and postoperative care. The editors are both well known and respected for their work in this field, and have assembled an impressive list of experts to create this multi-authored text.

The book is divided into four sections. Section one (3 chapters), entitled "Assessment" includes chapters on Normal Liver Function and the Hepatic circulation, Causes of Liver Disease, and Liver Function tests. The second section (3 chapters) covers "Pharmacology," with specific attention to volatile anaesthetics, sedatives, analgesics, and nondepolarizing muscle relaxants. Section three (6 chapters) entitled "Anesthetic Considerations" discusses coagulation, obstetric patients, paediatric patients, and anaesthesia for various surgical procedures. The final section on "Intensive Care" has chapters on acute liver failure, intensive care after hepatic surgery, nutrition, drug-induced liver disease, hepatitis B, and bacterial infections.

The majority of the chapters are clearly and concisely written with current references. In general, the chapters complement each other; however, as with any multi-authored text, there can be overlap. For example, sedation and analgesia are discussed in several places, and the chapter on Diagnostic Endoscopy, Sclerotherapy, and Biliary Procedures contains information that is already present elsewhere in the book. Certain features of the book, albeit few, are annoying: the first chapter discusses hepatic anatomy without the aid of diagrams, another chapter repeatedly advises to avoid hypoxia and hypotension! A chapter discussing some common postoperative problems such as managing ascites, investigating the jaundiced patient, and common reasons for postoperative hepatic dysfunction would be a valuable addition. There is a complete and helpful index.

This text provides an overview of the multitude of problems inherent to the care of patients with hepatic disease. It is not of sufficient size to be a comprehensive reference text, but it could be of value to those who wish more information than is provided in the standard general anaesthesia and intensive care texts.

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Adult Airway Management. Principles and Techniques CD-ROM for MACs and Windows PCs

R.A. Ortega, H. Arkoff. Silver Platter Education, Inc. \$175.00 (US). ISBN: 1-57276-015-X

I was delighted to have an opportunity to test-drive this new CD-ROM release, dated March 1995.

This product is a well-designed multimedia learning package on airway management which includes a professionally narrated script with excellent graphics and animation, and a number of good quality (but small) Quick-Time colour videos. This CD-ROM is aimed at anaesthesia residents and practising anaesthetists looking for innovative CME material, although most chapters will be of benefit to clinical clerks and emergency physicians as well.

Last year I had spent several hours trying to get the previous release to work on three different PCs and eventually gave up all hope of ever seeing this package in operation. This time installation on my Pentium was straightforward and I was working away in minutes. However, some users will be disappointed to learn that at least 8 MB of RAM and support for 256 colours are needed.

Chapters include: Anatomy of the Airway, Evaluation of the Airway, Foreign Body Airway Obstruction, Endotracheal Tubes, Double-Lumen Tubes, Additional Airway Equipment, Laryngoscopes, Endotracheal Intubation, Distinguishing Esophageal and Tracheal Intubation, Rapid Sequence Induction, Laryngeal Mask Airway, Translaryngeal Injection, What is a Difficult Airway?, Trauma, Extubation Criteria, Pediatric & Adult Airway Differences, and Syndromes and Anomalies.

The product contains a number of interesting features. The text of the transcript is accessible and can be searched for key words and printed. A "Notes" feature allows users to type in comments in a "notepad" as they go along. These can be saved and printed later, although one cannot easily "cut and paste" from the transcript to the Notepad (or indeed to any other editor), an unfortunate limitation. A "Carousel" features allows one to use the CD-ROM to construct customized presentations. A "Video Browser" allows the various videos to be viewed independently from their surrounding material. Screen images can also be saved and printed. Finally, a series of multiple choice questions allow users to test their knowledge.

The product is not without some minor flaws, such as some annoying software bugs. For example, the Help system indicates falsely that the Notepad is accessible from the Features menu. Also, I could never get the screen image print feature to work. Not everyone will agree with all aspects of their teachings. For example,

some readers may not agree with the use of a defasciculating dose of *d*-tubocurarine before a rapid sequence induction, or that a rapid sequence induction "is a risky and dangerous technique."

In summary, this is a well-crafted CD-ROM that will make a fine addition to many anaesthesia departmental libraries.

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