Book Reviews

Textbook of Pain, 3rd ed

Patrick D. Wall, Ronald Melzack (Eds.). Churchill Livingstone 1994. 1524 pages. ISBN 0-443-04757-X. \$295.00 (Cdn)

This comprehensive reference textbook is 1524 pages long with 81 chapters from 125 contributing authors, edited by international authorities on the subject of pain. The contributing authors provide a global representation; USA – 46 (37%), UK – 30 (24%), Canada – 24 (19%), Europe – 17 (14%), Australia – 5 (4%), and Israel – 3 (2%). Twenty of the 125 contributors (16%) are from departments of anaesthesia. Of these two are from Canada (both are Ph.D. researchers). There is no contribution from an anaesthetist practicing in Canada. There are 23 (18%) contributions from departments of psychology and psychiatry and more than half of these (12/23 or 52%) are from Canada.

The book is divided into three sections entitled: basic, clinical, and therapeutic aspects. The section on basic aspects includes an exhaustive description of the physiology, psychology and measurement of pain. The section on clinical aspects describes different pain syndromes classified by aetiology, anatomical location or age, and other topics such as carcinoma and the central nervous system. The section on treatment aspects includes pharmacology, surgery, stimulation, physiotherapy, radiotherapy, chemotherapy.

The organization of the book makes the reader search through different sections to find all relevant information on a particular topic. For example, the basic section has a chapter on the measurement of pain in children. The clinical section has a chapter on pain experience in children. The therapeutic section has two chapters on the management of pain in children. Similarly the chapters of interest to anaesthetists are dispersed throughout the book. The clinical aspects section has a subsection on soft tissue, joints and bone which contains a chapter on acute and postoperative pain and another subsection on deep and visceral pain with a chapter on labour pain. The section on therapeutic aspects has a subsection on pharmacology which includes chapters on opioids, non-opioids, peripheral nerve blocks, and epidural analgesia.

The chapter on pain and impending death offers a unique perspective. The importance of symptom management in total comfort is emphasized. The necessity for invasive therapy such as surgery, nasogastric suction or intravenous therapy in the care of the terminal cancer

patient with a bowel obstruction is challenged as perhaps more painful than palliative.

The chapter on nonnarcotic analgesics gives a detailed description of nonsteroidal antiinflammatory agents accompanied by a discussion of their side effects, complications and contraindications. The chapter on opioid analgesia is excellent and provides very practical guidelines for the clinical use of opioids. The chapter on epidural analgesia is an exquisite critical appraisal of the literature by Henry McQuay. The chapter on acute pain management, written by Michael Cousins, outlines the pathophysiology of acute pain and describes the current state of inadequate postoperative pain management.

Interestingly there is no chapter on patient-controlled analgesia. The subject index has several references to patient-controlled analgesia, but there is no single chapter devoted solely to this topic. One can only speculate whether this was an oversight or whether the topic was deliberately omitted.

In summary, the third edition of this textbook is a massive collection of expert opinions and exhaustive summaries on the current literature. It is a valuable reference textbook and an essential addition to any anaesthesia library.

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Anesthesia and the Patient with Co-existing Heart Disease

Joseph I. Simpson (Ed.). Boston: Little Brown and Co. 1993. 491 pages. ISBN 0-316-79185-7. \$85.00 (US)

This book is a first edition dealing with the important topic of evaluating and anaesthetising the patient with heart disease. It contains 18 chapters arranged into three major sections; introduction, the adult patient and the paediatric patient. The introduction contains chapters on cardiac anatomy and anaesthetic agents. The remaining topics in the two major sections including monitoring, ischaemic heart disease, aortic and mitral valve disease, pacemakers, pregnancy, noncyanotic heart disease, cyanotic heart disease, thoracic aortic disease, arrhythmias, cardiomyopathies.

There is a long list of chapter topics but the content of these chapters is not consistent from one author to another and is sometimes anecdotal. An attempt is made

to structure the chapters into aetiology, pathophysiology, anaesthetic consideration and management. Some chapters are well written and closely follow this outline, especially those dealing with aortic and mitral valve disease. These two chapters are a good synopsis of the anaesthetic literature on these conditions. The chapter on ischaemic heart disease, however, is not detailed enough. The one large group of cardiac patients which most anaesthetists would encounter would be those with ischaemic heart disease; therefore, one expects a larger portion of the book to be devoted to this group. There is no mention made of the increasing subset of patients with unstable ischaemic heart disease as a result of incomplete revascularization with thrombolysis. Also lacking are discussions of the adult patient with congenital heart disease (both corrected and uncorrected), and the post-cardiac transplantation patient. These areas are certainly seen in clinical practice and are within the scope of this book. The chapter on monitoring is extensive, but there are many inaccuracies. The section on transoesophageal echocardiography should have had more detailed discussion of the prospective utilisation of this device.

The two paediatric chapters have good discussions of pathophysiology (with some overlap between the two). However, the anaesthesia management and considerations could have been more extensive. There was no mention of the use of regional anaesthesia in paediatrics, especially as an adjuvant to general anaesthesia and to provide postoperative analgesia.

This book could have concentrated on discussing four major areas with each different subsection of cardiac patient; preoperative evaluation, optimisation of patients prior to OR (with some mention of the decision making which occurs when surgery is emergent and there is very little time for optimisation), operative management and postoperative care.

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Anesthésie pour Coeliochirurgie #38 Collection d'anesthésiologie et de réanimation

sous la direction de P. Schoeffler. Paris: Masson 1993, 224 p. ISBN 2-225-84303-1. 290 F

La chirurgie par laparoscopie représente certainement un des pas importants réalisés dans l'évolution de la chirurgie dans la dernière décade. Son adoption rapide par la majorité des chirurgiens a forcé l'anesthésiste à bien comprendre les problèmes physiologiques inhérents à l'insufflation abdominale. Cette monographie réalisée par Schoeffler et un trentaine de collègues français tente de

faire le point sur l'état des connaissances sur ce sujet en plein ébullition.

La coeliochirurgie, comme on la nomme outre-mer, et son anesthésie y sont traitées à la façon d'un article de revue étendu. Cependant, le partage d'un tel travail en 19 chapitres, traités par un nombre aussi élevé d'auteurs, amène forcément une bonne dose de redondance. Ainsi même, si l'éditeur choisit de privilégier la compréhension de la physiologie circulatoire et respiratoire du pneumopéritoine, on ne peut s'empêcher de s'irriter que le contenu de ces chapitres soit successivement repris par les auteurs des chapitres en principe plus cliniques avec des interprétations parfois conflictuelles de la même littérature.

On apprécie cependant le souci de l'ouvrage de bien identifier les avantages et désavantages de la chirurgie laparoscopique et de bien avertir le lecteur de ce qui est prouvé scientifiquement, de ce qui l'est plus ou moins ou pas du tout. Les chapitres sur les développements actuels et sur les complications présentent un tableau très honnête de la question.

L'éditeur semble avoir incité chacun des auteurs de chapitres à présenter une conclusion claire qui représente bien l'état de la question et où les auteurs n'ont pas peur de présenter une opinion personnelle, ce qui est souvent nécessaire dans un sujet où tant de questions demeurent sans réponse.

En conclusion, il s'agit d'un ouvrage intéressant qui représente une version étendue d'un article de revue. Il pourra être particulièrement utile aux départements où la technique est à ses débuts et ceux où les indications s'étendent.

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Pulmonary Care of the Surgical Patient

Leland H. Hanowell, L. Junod (Eds.). Kisco, NY: Future Publishing Co., Inc., Mt. 400 pages
ISBN 0-87993-568-5

The purpose of this text is to review the preoperative, intraoperative and postoperative care of patients presenting for surgery with major respiratory disease. Individual chapters address the pathophysiology and general management of various acute and chronic respiratory disorders – including pulmonary embolism, ARDS, chest trauma, cystic fibrosis, bronchiectasis and COPD. A few chapters focus on the use of specific interventions for these conditions – such as mechanical ventilation, bronchoscopy, antibiotics and various forms of analgesia. The

18 authors include respirologists, surgeons and anaesthetists.

The organization and editing of the text appears to have been rather haphazard, with no logical grouping or sequencing of chapters, and little evidence of an effort to ensure consistency in standards of presentation. Overall, the reviews of intraoperative or anaesthetic care for individual conditions are either superficial, (e.g., asthma, trauma) or nonexistent (e.g., ARDS, pulmonary embolism). The information on pathophysiology and on preoperative and postoperative management is readily available elsewhere.

Unfortunately, I can find little to recommend this text to anaesthetists.

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Anatomy for Anaesthetists, 6th ed

Harold Ellis, Stanley Feldman (Eds.). Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1993. 358 pages. ISBN 0-632-03304-5. \$99.95 (US)

The sixth edition of *Anatomy for Anaesthetists* is a 358 page text designed by the authors to review areas of anatomy pertinent to anaesthetists and their everyday practice. Part 1, devoted to the respiratory pathway, as well as Parts 3 and 4 dealing with the vertebral canal, its contents and the peripheral nerves, are well written and present the relevant anatomy in a thorough manner and are accompanied by instructive diagrams. In the section on respiratory anatomy, some correlations are drawn between airway anatomy and specific anaesthetic concerns such as airway changes during anaesthesia, laryngeal nerve injuries and their impact on airway patency and bronchial anatomy at bronchoscopy. Similarly, Part Four is a substantial section covering the spinal nerves, formation of the cervical, brachial, lumbar, sacral and coccygeal plexuses, summary of their branches and areas of innervation are well described and clarified by diagrams. Part 8 is an interesting conglomeration of anatomical areas entitled "Zones of Anaesthetic Interest," and covers such as the thoracic inlet, diaphragm, intercostal spaces, the abdominal wall, the antecubital fossa and great vessels of the neck. Some effort is made to correlate anatomy to anaesthetic practice in terms of venous access and stellate ganglion blockade. Other parts of the text are disappointing such as sections dealing with the heart, the autonomic nervous system, and the anatomy of pain which were found to be superficial and lacking in anatomical and clinical detail. A large section is devoted to the cranial nerves which was found to be not terribly relevant to

everyday practice, but might supply details needed for exam preparation purposes. In summary, some sections of this text are covered in adequate detail and supplied with diagrams so as to be useful. Other sections are inadequately dealt with. I would not recommend this text as a first-line anatomical reference, but rather as a reference for anatomical detail pertinent to an anaesthetist likely to be overlooked on a classical anatomy text.

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