

Book & New Media Reviews



Interactive TEE Review - Self-Assessment Examination

Robert M. Savage, Solomon Aronson, Stanton K. Sherman. Wolters Kluwer/Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, 2007. DVD, \$229 US. ISBN 978-0-7817-6653-1

Interactive TEE Review - Self-Assessment Examination, a CD-ROM both Windows and Macintosh compatible, is hailed as the perfect complement to the Comprehensive Textbook of Intraoperative Transesophageal Echocardiography (Savage & Aronson, LWV). It is comprised of 421 multiple-choice questions with over 600 transesophageal echocardiography (TEE) video clips (not all questions have video clips and some have more than one).

This is indeed a very user-friendly CD that works equally well in PC or MAC mode and allows the user to access the questions in either a study or test mode. In the study mode, the user can choose from 31 different chapters covering every aspect of TEE imaging, from *Ultrasound and Physics behind the Knob* to *Intraoperative Transesophageal Echocardiography for Congenital Heart Disease*. Not only can the user choose the number of chapters and questions to study, he/she receives feedback after responding to each question and, furthermore, is provided with a summary of his/her progress at the end of the study session. In the test mode, feedback is only provided at the completion of the test; however, as in the study mode, the user can tailor both the size and the subjects of the test. In both modes, the section from which each question is chosen is displayed at the top of the screen.

The visual material (the video clips) is superb and thorough. There are video clips of regular TEE images and epicardiac images, and even three-dimensional TEE images. There are comprehensive images of all aspects of cardiac surgery, as well as transplant surgery, rare cardiomyopathies, and even investigational devices, such as percutaneous aortic valve replacement. Images of pertinent non-cardiac surgeries are also available.

Unfortunately, the support material is not always at the same level as the visual material. Some feedback

answers are minimal ("Please reference video image #"). The editing appears to have been done rather rapidly; for example, a question in the *Aortic Valve* section calls for a description of the level of aortic insufficiency, but the five choices are intended for aortic stenosis. Also, a question in the section regarding *Mitral Valve Surgery* has two identical answer choices, c & e (A2-A3 segment).

Nonetheless, this is a valuable addition to the literature of TEE, especially owing to its visual content. While not for beginners, this CD-ROM will be especially useful to those who are preparing for their TEE exams (PTEEXAM).

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MCQs for the Primary FRCA

Khaled Elfituri, Graham Arthurs, Les Gemmel. Cambridge University Press, 2008, first edition, 442 pages, \$60 US. ISBN 978-0-521-70509-7 (paperback)

This book is designed to help trainees in the United Kingdom (UK) prepare for their Primary Fellowship of the Royal College of Anaesthetists (FRCA) examination. To be eligible to write this examination, the candidate must be registered as a postgraduate trainee in anesthesia and must have completed at least 12 months of anesthesia training. The examination consists of 90 multiple choice questions (MCQ), an objective structured clinical exam (OSCE), and two structured oral exams (SOE). Once the candidate has passed the Primary FRCA examination and has completed 30 months of senior registrar training, she/he is eligible to write the Final FRCA examination.

This paperback book helps trainees prepare for the MCQ portion of the Primary FRCA. The first half of the book includes six practice examinations, each with 90 questions (30 physiology questions, 30 pharmacology questions, and 30 physics, clinical measurement and statistics questions) covering topics in the Primary FRCA examination. The second half of the book is a

detailed answer section with a few paragraphs reviewing each topic. A supporting bibliography lists the textbooks and journals that were used to support the responses.

Since I am currently within the final year (PGY5) of my Canadian residency training in the specialty of anesthesia, I have a specific interest in examination review books. The topics covered provide a good review of the relevant basic sciences, and the detailed answer section helps to explain a number of relevant topics that tend to be reviewed less frequently during residency training. Also, on the plus side, this is a conveniently-sized, easily portable book, making it handy for a quick study session. At the same time, until the reader browses through the “answers” section of the text, the specific approach to the questions is somewhat ambiguous. Unlike the typical MCQ format of choosing the one best answer, for each part of the MCQ in this book, the reader must decide whether each answer is true or false.

In comparison, the McGraw-Hill Specialty Board Review: Anesthesiology Examination and Board Review (6th edition, 2006) contains 1,900 MCQs to help candidates prepare for the American Board of Anesthesiology written examination. In this book, the answers are not as detailed, but each answer has references to more than one textbook (e.g., Miller’s Anesthesia 6th Edition and Barash *et al.*’s Clinical Anesthesia 5th Edition) and specifies the relevant page numbers within each text. In their next edition, the authors of MCQs for the Primary FRCA could improve in this respect, considering that the above textbooks of Miller and Barash *et al.* are not included in their reference list.

Overall, this book is specific to preparation for the Primary FRCA exam in the UK; even so, it does include some of the basic science topics important for candidates to review in preparation for the North American specialty anesthesia examinations. The formatting of the questions is different from the Canadian and American examinations; nevertheless, the content is relevant and, on balance, the text serves as a useful companion study guide.

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