Book & New Media Reviews

Manual of Anesthesia Practice

Manuel Pardo Jr, James M. Sonner (Editors). New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2007. Paperback \$55 US. ISBN 978-0-521-70935-4

This "Pocket Clinician" text covers several categories of point-form notes authored by 63 residents and 43 faculty of the University of California San Francisco Department of Anesthesia and Perioperative Care. While authors are named before each summary, one cannot tell which are faculty and which are residents. Summary notes vary from one to eight pages, the lengths of which may correlate with the presumed complexity of a given subject, but are inevitably author dependent.

The text is divided into five parts. Parts one and two, Co-Existing Diseases and Procedures, together form two-thirds of the book's content. They follow a format of pre-, intra- and postoperative issues, and also detail topic specific concerns or complications. Part one provides a standard history-physical-investigations format. Part two details short-form perioperative plans. Surgical summaries often contain redundancies as many surgical procedures have overlapping anesthetic considerations.

Part three, Critical Events, follows a format of description, diagnosis and management, and includes synopses of advanced cardiac life support. The point-form approach complements protocol-driven management of critical events, but also oversimplifies crisis management.

Part four, Techniques (primarily airway management, invasive techniques, and regional nerve blocks), follows a format of indications, preparation, anatomy, technique, complications and pearls. While these summaries do include useful information, they are limited by their lack of diagrams. Regional anesthesia techniques, in particular, lack both valuable pictures and a more thoroughly delineated trouble-shooting approach.

Part five, Drugs, includes 155 summaries and follows a format of indication, dose, onset, kinetics, preparation, mechanism, and comments. Some drugs are held over from a previous era (d-tubocurarine,

mivacurium), while others relevant to current practice are absent (pregabalin, tranexamic acid, aprotinin). Several drugs could have been more succinctly summarized by class. The text has no index, so readers must comb the table of contents to try and find a title to match relevant material. The text also lacks a list of abbreviations.

This text might be most useful as a quick study reference tool for senior residents already familiar with anesthesiology fundamentals. While *Manual of Anesthesia Practice* purports to be a "resource for the resident, medical student, or the busy clinician at any level of practice," its summary format lacks a depth of content both important for teaching residents and critical to the practicing clinician looking for detailed information.

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Fundamentals of Musculoskeletal Pain

Thomas Graven-Nielsen, Lars Arendt-Nielsen, Siegfried Mense (Editors). IASP Press, 2008. 496 pages. US \$90.00; IASP member price US \$70. ISBN 978-0-931092-72-5

This book is a compilation of original contributions and proceedings from the seventh IASP research symposium "Fundamentals of Musculoskeletal Pain," which took place in May 2007, at Aalborg University's Center for Sensory-Motor Interaction in Denmark. The last few years have seen an extensive number of original, peer-reviewed publications in this field, making this publication a timely review of the mechanisms of musculoskeletal pain.

The book is divided into three parts, the first describing the basic mechanisms of muscle pain, covering peripheral and central aspects. Part II describes key factors determining muscle pain sensitivity with a thorough explanation of sex-related and genetic factors. Part III reviews the effects of muscle pain

on motor function with a focus on jaw, back, neck/shoulder and joint pain. Throughout the book, there is an attempt to relate research findings to benefit clinical treatment strategies.

Musculoskeletal pain – including fibromyalgia, work-related myalgia, myofascial pain, strain injuries, low back pain and arthritis in other inflammatory conditions of the muscles, tendons, and joints – is a major medical and economic problem. The book explains that some of the pain manifestations in chronic musculoskeletal pain are consequences of sensitization of the nervous system. Interestingly, the only drug approved for the treatment of fibromyalgia, Lyrica (Pregabalin), is reflective of the application of such knowledge. The book also provides some insight on why musculoskeletal pain conditions are more prevalent in women, by presenting new views on gender differences in these conditions, including hormone-related modulation of receptor expression and function.

Authors include those from Europe, North America, Australia, Japan and range from basic science researchers to dentists and physicians. The text is easy to read, and chapters are concise and well referenced, up to the publication year 2007. All authors are identified at the end of each chapter, with contact information for those who have further questions or comments. I appreciated the clinical relevance sections at the end of each chapter, when present.

The efforts of basic science researchers to bring their knowledge and expertise to bear on a clinical problem is commendable. Although *Fundamentals of Musculoskeletal Pain* compiles the efforts of well respected researchers, and would be of interest to those dealing with musculoskeletal pain on a frequent basis, this book falls somewhat short for the physician wanting more detail regarding clinical applications for the patient presenting in the clinic, or at the bedside.

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