BOOK REVIEW

Mathur's Essential Neonatology: N. B. Mathur (ed)

Published by Noble Vision Medical Book Publishers, Delhi, India, ISBN: 978-81-906227-3-8, First Edition: 2012, Pages: 822, Price: Rs 1150

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Received: 24 February 2012 / Accepted: 15 March 2012 / Published online: 6 October 2012 © Dr. K C Chaudhuri Foundation 2012

Rapid advances are occurring in the field of neonatology globally. Several of these developments have origin and application in developing countries. Topics pertaining to priorities in developing countries find inadequate mention in the textbooks and that too, after considerable lapse of time. This volume is an effort to fill in this gap. The book has 6 sections dealing with organizational and delivery aspects of neonatal care, assessment of the neonate, care of the neonate, disorders of the newborn, pharmacopia and normal values. The text is a useful resource of recent advances in neonatology and contributors are experts in the related fields. The book is well referenced and chapters are followed by a comprehensive bibliography for further reading. Liberal use of tables, flow charts and figures including colour plates make for clear, concise and lucid reading. Chapters on status of newborn, neonatal transferral and organization of neonatal care units provide exhaustive data and insight into the prevailing neonatal care in public health context. These fulfill a long felt gap in the existing Indian literature. Care of normal newborn, prevention of infection, neonatal assessment and thermoregulation are evidence

based and the latest guidelines on resuscitation have been incorporated. Chapters related to feeding, lactation management, fluid and electrolyte and shock are extremely useful. Chapters on respiratory distress, blood gases, oxygen therapy, mechanical ventilation, pulmonary graphics and neonatal infections, would be extremely useful for those providing intensive neonatal care. Surgical issues of respiratory distress, acute abdomen, osteomyelitis, neural tube defects, necrotizing enterocolitis and disorders of sex developement would also be useful for surgeons involved in neonatal care. Cardiac problems of the neonate are comprehensively incorporated and cyanotic neonate is extensively dealt with to facilitate easy understanding of the complex topic. Chapters on retinopathy of prematurity, echocardiography, EEG, brainstem evoked response audiometry and perinatal transmission of infections would be useful in follow up of neonates. The book would be useful to all involved in neonatal care including post graduate students of pediatrics, medical officers, pediatric and neonatology fellows, practicing pediatricians as well as neonatologists.

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