Miller's Anesthesia Review: Third Edition

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Miller's Anesthesia Review: Third Edition is an up-to-date study guide intended for use in conjunction with the introductory textbook *Basics of Anesthesia: Seventh Edition* by Pardo and Miller. The study guide is primarily intended as a resource for senior medical students and junior anesthesia residents, although it could prove useful for a wide range of readers. Using a question-and-answer format, it actively engages the reader and offers a refreshing alternative to conventional textbook study methods. Key topics are clearly outlined in each chapter with a subset of questions for each topic. Concise, easy-to-read answers are provided at the end of the chapter that reference the relevant pages in Pardo and Miller's *Basics of Anesthesia*.

The third edition provides an update of the original version of *Miller's Anesthesia Review*, published in 2001, and the second edition, published in 2013 – again following the same section and chapter structures as are found in *Basics of Anesthesia: Seventh Edition*. In most cases, the chapters' authors of this latest edition of the *Review* were responsible for writing the corresponding chapters in the introductory *Basics of Anesthesia* textbook, ensuring consistency.

The *Review* covers a broad range of topics, from basic science to clinical anesthesia and, in general, transitions from basic to more complex topics to continue to challenge the reader. New chapters in this edition include

"Anesthetic Neurotoxicity," "Palliative Care," "Sleep Medicine and Anesthesia," and "New Models of Anesthesia Care: Perioperative Medicine, the Perioperative Surgical Home, and Population Health." The pre-existing chapters have undergone considerable editing to ensure that the reader is provided with up-to-date content.

Each chapter has a well-organized, consistent layout. Despite many contributing authors, there is notable similarity in format and question styles throughout. Each chapter lists the questions in entirety before answers are provided. All questions are numbered and placed in specific subcategories. The "Answers" section follows and is presented in a matching style, which helps with efficient transitioning from reviewing the questions to checking the answers. Subcategories make it easier to review specific topics, and they make the material more readable and approachable as it can be easily divided into smaller segments.

The question-and-answer format allows readers to assess their level of understanding and to receive immediate feedback with concise explanations. Only the relevant key points are highlighted in the answers, thereby addressing the question directly, without having to wade through cumbersome details. The content is thus appropriate for a review textbook targeting junior learners. When the occasional answers are too brief, or found to be incomplete for certain learners, they can learn more about the topic by referring to the page in the matching chapter of *Basics of Anesthesia*. This will often be required if the reader's understanding of the topic is limited.

Although a review textbook is not designed to function as the reader's main source of information, it would have been helpful for the textbook to have included occasional

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pertinent figures or tables. These additions could have conveyed key information more effectively, quickly, and easily. Here, the answers are provided only in text or formula format.

An eBook version, obtainable through Expert Consult™ (<https://expertconsult.inkling.com>), is included with each purchase, allowing readers to access the textbook via multiple devices (i.e., computers, tablets, mobile phones). This portability also makes it easier to use the study guide intraoperatively for teaching. The eBook version is well indexed, simple to navigate, and includes a search function, which is tremendously helpful when targeting specific topics or questions. It also uses colour, making it more visually appealing than the black-and-white textbooks. Although the eBook offers many advantages over the hard copy, it lacks the ability to have each question linked directly to the corresponding answer – which would have simplified the question-and-answer format and made the eBook more user friendly.

Miller's Anesthesia Review: Third Edition is primarily directed at entry-level trainees, but it is undoubtedly suitable for physicians at all levels. Junior residents can use

this study guide for self or group study and will find it to be an engaging way to retain information. Senior residents can use it to solidify their existing knowledge base or to quickly probe to fill in knowledge deficits. It is particularly valuable for staff anesthesiologists, facilitating intraoperative discussions with medical students and residents and assisting with informal evaluations.

The *Review* is a comprehensive, concise, easy-to-use resource as it accurately covers the fundamentals of anesthesia. All junior residents using *Basics of Anesthesia: Seventh Edition* should consider using *Miller's Anesthesia Review: Third Edition* to help assess their knowledge and direct their learning. Academic anesthesia departments should strongly consider adding this textbook to their library as a tool to help encourage, direct, and facilitate intraoperative teaching of medical students and junior residents.

Conflicts of interest None declared.

Editorial responsibility This submission was handled by Dr. Hilary P. Grocott, Editor-in-Chief, *Canadian Journal of Anesthesia*.