also information useful for the pain specialist and the anesthesiology resident in training. However, the specialist would need to consult more comprehensive sources for detailed information about such techniques as surgical ablation therapy, nerve block therapy, and pharmacology of parenteral and centrally applied opioids.

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Anesthesia for Obstetrics, 2nd Edition. EDITED BY SOL M. SHNIDER, GERSHON LEVINSON. Baltimore, Williams & Wilkins, 1987. Pages: 566. Price: $65.95.

This second edition replaces the original textbook published in 1979 with a slightly larger but still manageably sized book which provides an excellent foundation for the subspecialty of obstetric anesthesia. The increased page size of the text and the addition of 110 pages makes the second edition approximately 60% larger than the first. Many original chapters remain virtually intact; some original chapters have been improved; and new chapters have been added on topics such as intraspinal narcotics, fetal surgery, maternal medical problems, and morbid obesity.

The format of the book is little changed, with the high gloss pages, functionally labelled chapter sections, and liberal use of boldface for emphasis of points within paragraphs. The reproduction of some photographs remains a problem, as in the previous edition. The editors have allowed the use of "personal communication" citations for the support of some ideas. Such references are of little use to the reader who wishes to pursue the ideas cited, and this is disappointing for an otherwise well-referenced textbook.

The first chapter on physiology has added some figures which make clear the effects of progressive maternal hyperventilation during labor. Coagulation changes of gestation are now outlined, and the central nervous system changes are addressed briefly. Unchanged and testament to the insignificant practical progress made in these areas are the few paragraphs on the physiology of the hepatic, renal, and gastrointestinal changes of pregnancy.

Chapter 4, "Effects of Anesthesia on Uterine Activity and Labor," now addresses the most common complaints which the obstetricians make about the use of epidural analgesia for labor and delivery. The discussions about the progress of labor and the instrumented delivery rates are well referenced, and point out that no controlled data exist to confirm or deny the commonly held beliefs about epidural analgesia. At least, this chapter presents both sides of the arguments and, therefore, makes a good place for obstetricians and anesthesiologists to initiate their discussions and, hopefully, their future research efforts.

Chapter 6, "Part 1, Choice of Local Anesthetics in Obstetrics," is little changed except for the removal of the use of 0.75% bupivacaine. The always interesting editorial comments of Dr. Bromage include his point that the removal of 0.75% bupivacaine followed several incidents of "recalcitrant cardiac arrest . . . in women turned on their backs for resuscitation . . . who may have suffered the double iatrogenic insult of unrelieved aortic caval compression with accidental intravenous injection" of the drug intended for the epidural space. The British authors add to this textbook not only the greatest number of post-name initials for degress, but also some of the most refreshing vocabulary found in the book.

Chapter 7, "Psychologic and Alternative Techniques for Obstetric Anesthesia," has been improved with an opening section discussing the pain research which supports that fact that childbirth is a very painful experience for most women. The McGill Pain Questionnaire Pain Rating Index and the respected work of Melzack are cited cogently for those who wish to study this important area. Meaningful study of pain is occurring, and anesthesiologists must be aware of the findings so that clinical progress can be made in the treatment of pain from obstetrical, as well as other, sources.

Chapter 14, "Surgery during Pregnancy," reviews the new information on the inhibition of methionine synthetase by nitrous oxide. It is emphasized that no clear evidence for human teratogenicity of anesthetics has been published. This chapter will provide a handy reference for the practitioner who has to try to answer the inquiries of concerned patients and co-workers.

Chapter 15, "Anesthesia for Fetal Surgery," is all new, and provides an interesting diversion for the specialist, very few of whom will be providing anesthetics for hysterotomy and direct fetal surgery at this time. Food for thought for most readers, but of practical value to only a few.

Chapter 27, "Anesthetics for Pregnant Cardiac Patients," was improved by the addition of some diagrams depicting cardiac valvular problems. These diagrams make it easy to understand the physiology of these heart lesions and their impact on anesthetic choices. The practitioner who encounters these heart lesions infrequently would find the chapter useful for a rapid review before caring for these patients.

In summary, the second edition of Shnider and Levinson's textbook will be a welcome addition to the library of every anesthesia department. Even in hospitals where no regular obstetrics is practiced, the chapters on surgery during pregnancy will be valuable references. The obstetric specialist will appreciate the well-referenced chapters, the practitioner will use the book like a dictionary, and resident anesthesiologists will find the book helpful in preparation for their examinations. Although the text serves none of these groups perfectly, it will be useful to all of them.

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Decision Making in Anesthesiology. EDITED BY BREADY AND SMITH. B. C. Decker, Inc., 1987. Pages: 281. Price: $46.00.

Decision Making in Anesthesiology is a multiauthored hardbound text which presents specific anesthetic principles and case types using the decision tree format. The authors provide algorithms accompanied by a concise one-page discussion of the major branches in the decision tree in an effort to illustrate various perioperative management schemes. The concept is interesting: however, the authors fall short of their goals for a number of reasons. Firstly, and most importantly, many areas of anesthesia practice do not readily lend themselves to this form of analysis. The text considers these areas by focusing on the part(s) of the procedure that can be analyzed by algorithms, leaving other facets uncovered. In addition, when moving from one major decision-making point to another, many smaller branches which may impact on the subsequent major decision-making point are not considered, providing the reader with incomplete information for a particular area. Secondly, those areas in anesthesiology that can be detailed through use of an algorithm have not been uniformly prepared in this text. An example of this is the authors' treatment of decision making for difficult intubations which should lend well to an algorithmic format. However, despite the fact that decision-making trees have already been presented in the literature covering this area, the authors fall

short of providing a satisfactory algorithm. To be fair, however, there are a number of subjects which can be analyzed by the decision-making format and are adequately covered in this text.

The concept of decision-making algorithms is interesting, and would provide practitioners unfamiliar with a particular practice a rapid method of reviewing a specific anesthetic management scheme. Educationally, however, there is also a danger in using this approach, for it may promote "cook booking," while tending to prevent the in-depth examination of a particular subject which physicians who specialize in anesthesiology should seek.

In summary, I believe the concept of *Decision Making in Anesthesiology* using the decision-making format is potentially useful in specific areas. This text could be a good way to prepare for tests in our specialty, in that it provides a framework to review anesthesia practices. In addition, the book may also serve as an aid for resident trainees and anesthesiologists to quickly review an unfamiliar procedure. However, for the reasons stated above, I feel that it is incomplete, and, thus, I cannot strongly recommend the book being added to the anesthesiologist's library.

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Anesthesia and Uncommon Pediatric Disease. EDITED BY JORDAN KATZ AND DAVID J. STEWARD. Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders Company, 1987. Pages: 560. Price: $65.00.

Although several well-organized and authoritative pediatric anesthesia texts have recently become available, until now, many less common pediatric illnesses with potential anesthetic implications have not been reviewed. The anesthesiologist has, in too many cases, needed to rely on general or obscure pediatric texts to discuss many pediatric medical problems. Usually, such texts are written for the practicing pediatrician, and important potential problems facing the anesthesiologist perioperatively are not evaluated.

This authoritative, multi-center, well-organized text discusses many of these less frequent illnesses. It is organized in an organ-system approach, with excellent introductory chapters on physiologic and anatomic maturation and pharmacologic considerations. Many of the chapters have thorough discussions of how the maturation of individual organ systems relate to anesthetic care.

Although many of the disease entities presented are not commonly seen in a routine practice, it is just this lack of exposure that necessitates the easy access to a concise, informative text. The strength of this text is the development of theoretical considerations for many of these less common and, therefore, less reviewed illnesses.

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