

■ REVIEWS OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL

James C. Eisenach, M.D., Editor

The Pediatric Pain Handbook. By J. K. Deshpande and J. D. Tobias. St. Louis, Mosby-Year Book, 1996. Pages: 387. Price: \$32.95.

The Pediatric Pain Handbook is a timely addition to the medical literature and a worthy addition to other, more comprehensive texts on the subject. Its coverage of the treatment of acute pain is relatively complete, and the sections on the management of sedation in children are extremely well written. There is an excellent section on the management of pain in children with medical illnesses, and I was very appreciative of Dr. McClain's discussion of the prevention and management of mucositis. Similarly, the section on regional analgesia for postoperative pain management is interesting, even for those who practice the craft daily.

The diagrams are well done and demonstrate some of the nuances of the treatment of infants and children. The appendices are complete, and every reader that has administrative responsibility should appreciate the inclusion of the Vanderbilt Sedation Policy. The size of the text is perfect for a coat pocket; that is where my copy stays.

Though this book was written predominately by anesthesiologists, it should be read and understood by every pediatric practitioner—including pediatricians, surgeons, and nurses. It is concise enough to be readily useful and complete enough to provide the information that almost any clinician will need to care for children. The text will be of interest to oncologists as well as to critical care specialists.

At less than 35 dollars, *The Pediatric Pain Handbook* is a must for the pediatric pain practitioner and for others that deal with seriously ill infants and children. It is concise, well written, accurate, and affordable. I recommend this text highly.

Raeford Brown, M.D.
Division of Pediatric Anesthesia
Arkansas Children's Hospital
800 Marshall Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202-3591

Postoperative Care of the Critically Ill Patient. Edited by T. James Gallagher, M.D. Baltimore, Williams & Wilkins, 1995. Pages: 502. Price: \$99.00.

This book addresses the most common problems encountered by high-risk surgical patients when treated in the intensive care unit. The book contains 18 chapters, written by 22 contributors. The chapter on immediate needs of the postoperative patient serves as an introduction to the most relevant chapters. Monitoring techniques are presented as a broad overview of methods used in intensive care. The chapters on pain management and sedation and the use of neuromuscular blockade detail the physiologic and pharmacologic basics and offer useful guidelines for their use in critical care. The information in these two chapters will be welcome by intensivists without anesthesiology training. Other chapters include the perioperative stress response, fluid therapy, acute electrolyte imbalance, and acute renal failure. Sections on myocardial ischemia and infarction,

acute airway problems and postoperative ventilatory support, oxygen delivery and utilization, postoperative sepsis, posttraumatic head injury, management of the obtunded patient, postoperative bleeding, deep venous thrombosis, and pulmonary embolism complete the book.

Each chapter is introduced with a case report followed by a brief description on pathophysiology, assessment, and management. Most chapters do not provide an in-depth discussion on pathophysiology, which makes for a very useful tool for clinicians who need a quick reference for practical information. Margin notes highlight the most relevant information of the paragraphs. The overall quality of the chapters is good, although the areas on decision-making and goal-oriented management are discussed superficially. In general, the chapters have an adequate number of references with current literature citations.

The book is presented in a well-organized format. However, chapters on postoperative pulmonary and cardiac dysfunction in the high-risk patient, as well as the management of hemodynamic information, multiple organ failure, postoperative acid-base imbalance, and nutritional support would have been welcome. In addition, a discussion on the discrepancies of recent clinical trials on "supranormal hemodynamics" and recommendations based on these recent studies would have complemented nicely the chapter on oxygen transport.

The chapter on postoperative myocardial ischemia, although well written, does not cover the topic. This chapter has an extensive discussion on preoperative cardiac risk assessment, but does not address the incidence of postoperative myocardial ischemia and infarction in different high risk surgical populations and the different clinical approaches that have been attempted to decrease the incidence of the problem.

The strength of the book lies in its easy readability, the relevant facts provided in the margin notes, and the valuable information offered for a clinician searching for a rapid source of practical information.

In summary, this book will fulfill the needs of medical students and residents who are introduced to the management of critically ill surgical patients. In addition, it can be a useful tool for physicians preparing for a board examination.

Pedro A. Mendez, M.D.
Oscar A. de Leon-Casasola, M.D.
Department of Anesthesiology
Roswell Park Cancer Institute
Elm and Carlton Streets
Buffalo, New York 14263

Clinical Transesophageal Echocardiography: A Problem-Oriented Approach. by Yaso Oka and Stephen N. Konstadt. Philadelphia, New York, Lippincott-Raven Publishers, 1996. Pages: 382. Price: \$149.00.

Clinical Transesophageal Echocardiography is a first-edition hard-bound text designed to highlight the many useful applications of

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transesophageal echocardiography in the care of high-risk cardiac and general surgical patients. The book is intended as an educational tool for the intermediate and advanced level echocardiographer and provides specific examples of how to use transesophageal echocardiography in the care of complex surgical patients.

The book is organized in two major sections, with the first section covering applications of transesophageal echocardiography in the cardiac surgery patient and the second discussing applications in the noncardiac surgical patient. An impressive variety of applications of transesophageal echocardiography are covered in each section, including key chapters on evaluation of rheumatic and ischemic mitral valve disease, evaluation of aortic plaque and dissection, and use of transesophageal echocardiography in the hypotensive patient. Additional, less frequently considered, uses for transesophageal echocardiography are well covered, including such applications as liver transplantation and resection and lung transplantation. Each chapter is organized in a problem-oriented approach, with a background discussion of the lesion, its pathophysiology and surgical treatment, and a case example focusing on the echocardiographic evaluation of the lesion. In each case example, the echocardiographic findings and their importance to the care of the patient are well described.

The book contains many excellent echocardiographic images and diagrams that serve as a helpful guide to the reader in increasing understanding. The chapter on hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy is particularly well illustrated, with excellent echocardiographic images and diagrams of the surgical treatment. Each chapter is well referenced, and the book contains a useful bibliography.

Although each chapter describes the mechanics of performing the various echocardiographic evaluations, this text is not suited for the beginning echocardiographer, and assumes the reader has some baseline knowledge of the transesophageal echocardiographic examination.

Overall, *Clinical Transesophageal Echocardiography: A Problem Oriented Approach*, is a well organized and well written text, which highlights, using a case example format, many important uses of transesophageal echocardiography in the care of surgical patients. This text is a useful companion to Dr. Oka's previous textbook, entitled *Transesophageal Echocardiography*, which nicely demonstrates the basic aspects of the transesophageal echocardiography examination. Echocardiographers at the intermediate level and beyond will find this a useful tool to further their skills in the application and interpretation of echocardiograms in a wide variety of surgical patients.

Robert Brooker, M.D.

Assistant Professor, Section on Cardiac Anesthesia
Bowman Gray School of Medicine of Wake Forest University
Medical Center Boulevard
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27157

Regional Anesthesia: An Atlas of Anatomy and Techniques. By M. B. Hahn, P. M. McQuillan, and G. J. Sheplock. St. Louis, Mosby-Year Book, 1996. Pages: 311. Price: \$135.00.

We are all well aware of the increasing role that computers play in our daily functioning in both clinical and academic capacities. However, it is rare that we witness a novel use of the computer that

is so well suited to enhancing an aspect of medical education. Such is definitely the case with *Regional Anesthesia: An Atlas of Anatomy and Techniques*, which incorporates the highest quality of computer-generated handiwork.

This atlas is well organized, and is divided into 8 "parts" and 41 short chapters. It is nicely indexed and fairly well, but inconsistently, referenced. After the introductory two parts on Pharmacology and Guidelines for Regional Anesthetic Techniques, respectively, the remaining six parts focus on anatomy and approaches to blockade of regions of the body that are commonly anesthetized.

Chapters are written by 26 anesthesiologists, pain practitioners, and anatomists, 24 from the United States, 1 from Mexico, and 1 from Canada. Most of the authors are well recognized, and many are experts in the field. The editors' intent is to offer a three-dimensional understanding of applied human anatomy in a succinct format. The relevant anatomy is then stressed in each individual author's approach to the fairly complete repertoire of regional anesthetic techniques covered in the text. Anatomy for regional neural blockade of the head and neck, upper extremities, lower extremities, and sympathetic nervous system are then covered, followed by discussions of spinal, epidural, and caudal anesthesia. Perhaps the best is saved for last. In part 8, anatomy and approaches to neural blockade of multiple axial nerves are presented with detailed, computer-enhanced illustrations.

Overall, the clear strength and distinguishing characteristic of this atlas is the quality of the unique, clear, relevant computer-based illustrations by George Sheplock. Chapters are uniformly well-illustrated, but content varies according to the individual authors. Some chapters are more updated in terms of relevant literature than others, which appear as mere repetitions of standard regional anesthesia texts. Sections on brachial plexus anatomy and techniques are strongly presented, as are those on sympathetic nervous system, lower extremity, and spinal/epidural/caudal anatomy and techniques. The chapters covering individual peripheral nerve blocks incorporate photographs of surface anatomy with computer imaging of the underlying anatomic structure. These successfully convey a true "feel" for relevant surface landmarks. For example, the illustration of the interscalene brachial plexus and that of the femoral nerve anatomic relations allow one to achieve an instant understanding that otherwise takes much clinical experience to acquire. Also shown is where and how to place the needle—so often neglected in textbooks of regional anesthesia. The final chapters illustrate blocks of peripheral nerves seldom done by the most experienced clinician.

Overall, the text is somewhat too long. The atlas would be more effective if the illustrations and technique descriptions were accented by succinct anatomy, technique, and approach descriptions. To this end, the initial section on pharmacology is unoriginal, lengthy, and appears out of place.

Despite these few criticisms, this atlas would be a very useful and user-friendly addition to the library of any clinician who performs or desires to learn regional anesthetic techniques. Even a professional can benefit from a quick review of the excellent illustrations of peripheral nerve blocks.

William F. Urmey, M.D.

Medical Director, Ambulatory Surgery Unit
Assistant Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology
Hospital for Special Surgery
535 East 70th St
New York, New York 10021