

REVIEWS OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL

Irwin and Rippe's Intensive Care Medicine, Fourth Edition. By Irwin, Rippe, and Cerra. Philadelphia, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 1998. Pages: 2912. List Price: \$225.00.

Intensive Care Medicine, in its fourth edition, remains one of the leading critical care textbooks and addresses both medical and surgical intensive care issues. This new edition comes as an attractive two-volume book. The binding seems more durable and of higher quality than its last edition. The pages are off-white, which is easier for the eye to read. It is also less bulky and heavy with nine fewer chapters and a reduction of 129 pages; however, the print is *not* smaller and the pages are *not* appreciably thinner. With this edition, new authors have been added as well as a few new chapters, while other chapters from the previous edition have been updated and several times two chapters have been consolidated into one chapter. For example, the section Pharmacology, Overdoses, and Poisonings is updated and condensed from 42 to 38 chapters. This has allowed the basic text to stay similar to the previous edition and yet remain a fresh, up-to-date, and comprehensive reference text.

The text begins with 30 chapters on various procedures and techniques used in the intensive care unit. Some of the chapters are almost identical to the previous edition. This is not a big deal, since really not much has changed in placement of central lines or arterial lines. However, the airway chapter could have been better updated. A huge picture of the optical stylet continues to be shown, which is unlikely to be used in the intensive care unit even by anesthesiologists, and no picture nor much discussion is given to the laryngeal mask airway, which should be a part of the nonanesthesiologist intensivist's armamentarium. The intubating laryngeal mask airway can help in blind intubations. It facilitates placement of a larger endotracheal tube than the usual laryngeal mask airway, through which only a 6.0-mm endotracheal tube can be placed fiberoptically. The chest tube insertion and care chapter makes no mention of reexpansion pulmonary edema about which an intensivist should know. On the other hand, the chapters on methods of obtaining lower respiratory tract secretions in pneumonia is well written by a new author and completely updated. The chapters on tracheotomy, paracentesis and diagnostic peritoneal lavage, neurologic monitoring, and intracranial pressure monitoring have been significantly updated. The chapter on anesthesia for bedside procedures is likely to be welcomed by intensivists without an anesthesiology background. Overall, this section has consolidated the text and references, most of which have been updated to 1997. I find this section to be very useful for residents learning the various procedures. Next follow eight sections organized by organ systems.

Most of the chapters in the cardiovascular problems in the intensive care unit section are quite similar to the last edition; in fact, critical care of pericardial disease is identical whereas the chapter on syncope has been completely revamped and improved. The chapter on dissection of the aorta lacked any comment on the newer radiologic treatments such as endovascular stents. The section on coronary care is highly up-to-date in a rapidly changing field involving thrombolytics and interventional procedures. Likewise, the section on transplantation is well written, highly up-to-date, and includes the newest antirejection medications and latest survival statistics. A whole new chapter is dedicated to the liver transplant patient. The pulmonary problems in the intensive care unit section has been greatly updated and improved over the last edition and includes low-molecular weight heparin treatment for venous thromboembolism as well as other newer antithrom-

botic regimens. The acute respiratory failure chapter has added a segment on HELLP (hemolysis, elevated liver enzymes, and low platelets) syndrome that is important to know about, but is misplaced in this chapter. Although nosocomial pneumonia is briefly mentioned in the acute infectious pneumonia, ventilator-associated pneumonia is lacking mention and I look forward to an expansion in this area in the next edition. The extrapulmonary cause of respiratory failure remains one of my favorites. The renal section has been updated to include newer and ever changing anti-HIV drug dosing in the renal patient. The section on infections includes data on once daily dosing of aminoglycosides. Instead of a general review of patients with AIDS, there is a consolidated chapter addressing the critically ill patient with HIV and the problems most likely encountered in the intensive care unit. The section on nutrition has been thoroughly updated and consolidated. The multiple organ dysfunction syndrome has been appropriately placed under shock/trauma rather than nutrition even though gut mucosal barrier dysfunction likely plays a role in the development of multiple organ dysfunction syndrome.

In summary, the fourth edition of *Intensive Care Medicine*, which has been updated with newer references dating to 1997, is a multidisciplinary text edited by three well-known and experienced editors. It remains an excellent and comprehensive critical care textbook. It serves as a good reference for the physician involved in taking care of critically ill patients and provides a rather quick review of an issue not frequently dealt with. The editors have improved on an already excellent text, not an easy accomplishment. Although \$225.00 seems pricey initially, it is worth it and is really only \$0.07 per page.

Sylvia Y. Dolinski, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care
Wake Forest University School of Medicine
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

(Accepted for publication December 15, 1999.)

Atlas of Anesthesia Volume VI: Pain Management. Series editor: Ronald D. Miller. Volume editor: Stephen E. Abram. New York, Churchill Livingstone, 1998. Pages: 248. List Price: \$135.00.

In the series preface Dr. Miller describes the purpose of the multivolume *Atlas of Anesthesia* as offering the "largest and most comprehensive collection of teaching visuals in the field of anesthesiology. The subject matter presented is to include "the most up-to-date information in a format that offers not only the finest images available but also unique schematic presentations." To this end, this sixth volume of the series, edited by Stephen Abram and including an impressive collection of contributors, is a major success.

This volume covering the subspecialty area of pain management is divided into 15 chapters. Included are chapters covering the range of topics from the basic mechanisms of pain perception and processing; the clinical presentations of various pain syndromes from headache, neuropathic, visceral, sympathetically maintained, herpes zoster, cancer, back, and postoperative pain; to the pain management approaches of spinal cord stimulation, psychological therapy, occupational medicine, and physical rehabilitation. A chapter on outcomes assessment in the area of pain management is also included.

REVIEWS OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL

The subjects are presented with a brief introductory narrative followed by a series of illustrations, photographs, radiographs, flow diagrams, and tables, each with moderate to extensive legends to supplement and clarify the illustrative material. The illustrations are clear and relatively simple color line drawings. In some cases the illustrations are anatomically correct while others are simplified for illustrative purposes. The style of the tables, figures, diagrams, and drawings are consistent throughout the volume and are of above average to high quality. Appropriate bibliographical references for original information sources are included at the conclusion of each chapter.

As would be expected, some subject matter lends itself better to the atlas format than others. Chapters covering the topics of pain mechanisms and clinical presentations are appropriately and clearly presented through the use of various illustrations in the atlas format. Other chapters including those addressing the topics of occupational medicine, physical rehabilitation, and outcomes assessment for example, are somewhat less well suited to presentation in the atlas format and are largely presented in a series of tables with detailed legends. Some readers may find these topics more clearly discussed as presented in the more typical format found in texts, but the presentation of the material in tabular form does provide some illustrative supplementation to the traditional descriptive text found in other sources.

While neither intended nor successful in replacing other more authoritative texts covering the subject of pain management, the presentation of the variety of topics comprising the field of pain management in this volume of the *Atlas of Anesthesia* provides a valuable source for simple and clear illustrations to supplement the material available from other sources. While not a recommended first text or sole source for the reader seeking an introduction or comprehensive review of the topic of pain management, this atlas should be considered by those seeking a more visually oriented presentation of many important aspects of the field. Designed to be used in combination with the traditional textbook, slide atlas, and CD-ROM formats, this atlas will serve as an important supplemental source for high-quality diagrams, figures, tables, photographs, and radiographs to aid both the teacher and the student of the field of pain management.

James Crews, M.D.
Associate Professor of Anesthesiology
Wake Forest University School of Medicine
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

(Accepted for publication December 15, 1999.)

Obstetric Anesthesia Principle and Practice, Second Edition. Edited by David H. Chestnut. St. Louis, Mosby-Yearbook, 1999. Pages: 1112. List Price: \$125.00.

Five years have elapsed since the publication of the first edition of this textbook in obstetric anesthesia. Dr. Chestnut has again brought together a variety of distinguished authors from different institutions to achieve a well-balanced textbook that elucidates the fundamental principles of obstetric anesthesia.

It is fitting that the textbook starts with a contribution to the history of obstetric anesthesia. As in the first edition, the second edition is divided into 10 parts. Each part comprehensively covers a specific area of interest. The format in which the text is arranged makes this book very easy to read. However, the line diagrams are in black and white but they contribute significantly to the flow of the narrative. The textbook has a good cross-referencing system that allows the reader rapid access to a specific query, and serves as an exceptional reference book.

New concepts have been incorporated into many of the chapters in this edition. Chapters describing the physiologic changes during pregnancy, fetal physiology, uteroplacental flow, and placental transfer of drugs are thorough and well documented. Each chapter is succinctly summarized with key points.

One of the greatest strengths of this textbook is the chapter on regional analgesia and anesthesia. In the last 5 yr, several studies have implicated epidural analgesia to increase the incidence of assisted delivery. Dr. Chestnut writes a thorough review of the pathophysiology and pharmacology of assisted delivery. He highlights some of the inadequacies of studies and presents a logical and balanced argument that helps the reader understand the complexity of assisted delivery.

The second addition also reviews newer clinical techniques. For example, the combined spinal-epidural technique has regained popularity in obstetric anesthesia and this is referenced in many of the chapters. There is a review of anesthesia-related complications in obstetrics, which is exceptionally well done. Clinical relevance is supported by evidence from recent reports on the confidential inquiry into perioperative deaths in England and American Society of Anesthesiologists' closed claims project database.

The text also includes significant chapters on preterm labor, abnormal presentation, multiple gestation, fever, and infection. Postpartum hemorrhage is thoroughly covered. There is a good summary of the parturient with systemic disease. I enjoyed reading the chapter on neurologic and neuromuscular disorders.

There are a few minor deficiencies of this book. Some chapters do not contain significantly new information from the first edition. This may reflect a lack of suitable new material or the opinions of the chapter author. A paperback edition may be more affordable for some students of anesthesia and easier to carry.

Overall, the second edition has some commendable improvements on an already outstanding reference. This textbook will be an invaluable addition to the library of any anesthesia practitioner, neonatologist, obstetrician, or midwife. It deals with the fundamentals of obstetric anesthesia in a balanced manner with emphasis on evidence-based data. I would recommend this textbook of obstetric anesthesia to all who participate in the care of parturients.

Gary Vasdev, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology
Director of Obstetric Anesthesia
Mayo Clinic
Rochester, Minnesota
vasdev.gurinder@mayo.edu

(Accepted for publication December 15, 1999.)