
Integration of the physician-anesthesiologist into the dental school environment, and intimate cooperation between the institutional dentist and the anesthesiologist, with the goal of bettering patient care, is the basic premise of this manual. Lucidly, the author presents the dilemma, anesthesia or conscious sedation, as viewed by the dentist and by the physician-anesthesiologist involved in the specialty of dental anesthesia.

The often scornful attitude of the physician-anesthesiologist towards the dentist's use of non-endotracheal general anesthesia, and the dentist's feelings of semi-abandonment by the anesthesiological community, are well described. The concise review of endotracheal and non-endotracheal anesthetic techniques avoids dogma while offering excellent guidelines for the use of these techniques in the dental outpatient, and is followed by an account of the main complications of general anesthesia in dental anesthesia practice.

The author's model for the integration of the physician-anesthesiologist into a dental school is that of The Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne. Practical suggestions for design, staffing and operations are offered, with due allowance for institutions of various populations.

The section on the principles and practice of sedation, both inhalation and intravenous, should be required reading for all residents in anesthesiology, as well as for their instructors. The dangers inherent in the "minimal increment methohexitone" technique of sedation are well presented, as are the Jorgensen technique and the use of diazepam, alone or in combination with methohexitone. Conscious sedation with low-concentration nitrous oxide in oxygen is covered in detail, and the principles of this technique are shown to be applicable to routine hospital operating room practice. Common complications of sedation techniques, and the applicability of the techniques to the poor-risk patient, are also dealt with.

Outpatient dental anesthesia in the United States has traditionally been the province of the oral surgeon or the hospital-trained dental anesthesiologist. To suggest, however, as this excellent little manual does, that every dental outpatient who is to have general anesthesia should be attended by a physician-anesthesiologist is to overlook two important facts. First, the new curriculum now gives the dental graduate a firm grounding in basic science, and early experience in physical examination of patients in the hospital wards. This experience makes the author's claim that the dentist is unable adequately to evaluate the feasibility of general anesthesia somewhat weak. Second, not in the foreseeable future will there be an adequate supply of physician-anesthesiologists interested enough in outpatient dental anesthesia to devote their full time to this practice. Considering the technical and scientific advances now under way, a suggestion to a young physician-anesthesiologist that he limit himself to short outpatient dental procedures involving the use of light and, in the majority of cases, non-endotracheal anesthesia, would surely result in a negative response. The roles of the oral surgeon and the qualified dental anesthesiologist are now firmly established.

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The stated purpose of the book is "to provide, under one cover, a complete guide to practice for those in all specialties of dentistry who are training in anesthesia and for nurse and physician anesthetists who plan to work with dental practitioners." In addition, "it offers a complete and simplified course in local anesthesia ... and a simplified presentation of the essentials of physiology, pharmacology, physical diagnosis, resuscitation, intubation and laboratory test interpretations ..." Regrettably, the author's goals are inadequately achieved, and some chapters are biased toward the author's personal practices.

Chapters on the history of anesthesia, basic aspects of physics in anesthesia, management of life-saving emergencies, and laboratory test interpretation are well done and are the highlights of this book; simplification and condensation have not resulted in a loss of necessary content, but the chapter on theories of anesthetic action is unduly simplified and provides the reader with little background. References are limited to five, related to only two of the nine theories mentioned.

Physical evaluation of the patient is well detailed and would be an excellent presentation were it not for the dogmatic interjection of certain debatable principles—for example, the pre- and intra-anesthetic need for atropine in patients being maintained on beta blockers such as propranolol. This is a much-disputed area, and review of current literature demonstrates no consensus in approach. On the other hand, the account of the physiology of the heart, circulation, and respiration related to anesthesia is grossly oversimplified; acid-base balance is mentioned only in simplistic terms, and no mention is made of shunt and its relationship to anesthesia practice.

The chapter on pharmacology of drugs and side effects in deficiencies. For example, in the de-