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. Educa-
tionally, 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 Anesthesia
texts 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 addi-
tion, 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 anesthesiolo-
gist's library.

Paul R. Knight, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor and Director of Research
Department of Anesthesiology
University of Michigan Medical Center
16323 University Hospital
Box 0048
1300 East Medical Center Drive
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109

Anesthesia and Uncommon Pediatric Disease. Edited by Jordan
Katz and David J. Steward. Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders

Although several well-organized and authoritative pediatric anes-
thesia texts have recently become available, until now, many less com-
mon 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 anesthesiol-
ogist 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 ap-
proach, with excellent introductory chapters on physiologic and ana-
tomic maturation and pharmacologic considerations. Many of the
chapters have thorough discussions of how the maturation of individ-
ual 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 necessi-
tates 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.

Daniel J. James, M.D.
Assistant Professor
Brown University School of Medicine
Department of Anesthesiology
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27106