

BOOK REVIEW

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Effective Hemostasis in Cardiac Surgery. EDITED BY N. ELLISON AND D. R. JOBES. Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders, 1988. Pages: 209. Price: \$47.50.

In his forward to this book, D. David Glass notes that "few areas in clinical medicine have generated as much emotional response on the part of surgeons and anesthesiologists, based on so little fact and science, as have the etiology and treatment of intraoperative bleeding disorders in cardiac surgery. . . . there has been a lack of undisputed information to guide clinical care. This has led to a variety of institutional, emotional, and unscientific schemes . . ." This volume is an attempt to distill some of that "undisputed information" from the literature.

The book is the second entry in an improving annual series of monographs selected by the Publication Committee of the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists. Thirteen chapters by 20 contributors from a variety of academic medical centers cover such aspects of the problem as heparin therapy, protamine, fibronolysis and fibrinolytic therapy, blood plasma products, platelet function alterations, platelet transfusion, heparin-induced thrombocytopenia, desmopressin acetate in hemorrhagic conditions, activated coagulation time, thromboelastography, and viscoelastic measurement of clot formation. Each of these chapters is a succinct portrait of current clinical and research knowledge in its area.

In the book's final chapter, "Effective Hemostasis in the Cardiac Surgical Patient: Current Status," the editors outline areas of current consensus and understanding. They note the importance of preoper-

ative hemostatic evaluations and the need to exercise caution with prophylactic platelet transfusion, fresh frozen plasma administration, and other "emperical" or "shotgun" therapies. The editors also note that rapid laboratory diagnosis of use to the clinician in the operating room is badly needed. Further, because of current concern with viral transmission by transfusion, "Clinically important bleeding must now include any need for transfusion." Most multi-authored texts would benefit from such a chapter that synthesizes issues raised in previous chapters.

This relatively brief book brings together a large amount of material in a manner useful to residents, clinicians, and researchers. Tables and figures are used frequently as simple, but effective, additions to the text. References are ample, up-to-date, and provide historical perspective as appropriate. The index is adequate in detail.

This excellent work can be recommended to everyone involved with cardiac surgery.

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