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Regional Anaesthesia in Children. BY CLAUDE SAINT-MAURICE and OTTHEINZ SCHULTE-STEINBERG. East Norwalk, Connecticut, Appleton & Lange, 1990. Pages: 195. Price: \$70.00.

The last decade witnessed an explosive growth in the use and study of regional anesthesia in children. Old techniques (*e.g.*, caudal blocks) were rediscovered. New methods were introduced, from the very simple (*e.g.*, wound irrigation with local anesthetic solution) to the more complex catheter epidural or interpleural techniques. Not surprisingly, most major anesthesia journals have recently carried review articles on pediatric regional anesthesia, and all the recent editions of the popular pediatric anesthesia texts greatly expanded their chapters dealing with regional anesthesia.

The current book is the second European text on pediatric regional anesthesia that has come across my desk within the last year. It is a handsome hardcover volume that is beautifully illustrated by Poul Buckhøj, whose drawings have previously made Eriksson's "little green book" on local anesthesia a most popular "how-to-do-it" reference.

In his foreword to the book, Bromage writes: "After more than twenty years of innovative clinical investigation with epidural anesthesia in children, Professor Saint-Maurice and Dr. Schulte-Steinberg have assembled a team of European collaborators to present a wide spectrum of pediatric regional anesthesia in practical handbook form." The book is organized into four major sections. The first is an overview of the basic anatomy, physiology, and pharmacology of regional anesthesia. The second section deals with specific block techniques. The authors' research interest in epidural techniques is evident in the disproportionate presentation of fairly specialized lumbar and thoracic epidural techniques, in contrast to the very brief discussion of the more useful and definitely more popular ilioinguinal/iliohypogastric and penile blocks. Incidentally, the dose recommended for the ilioinguinal/ilio-

hypogastric block ($0.25 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$ of 0.5% bupivacaine) comes to a mere 0.5 ml of that solution for a 2-yr-old 10-kg child. I suspect that this must be a typographical error. For penile blocks, only the dorsal nerve block is described; no mention is made of the much simpler subcutaneous ring block approach. However, the authors deal fairly with the difficulties and potential dangers of major central neuroaxis blockade, such as the use of thoracic epidural techniques in young anesthetized children. The chapter on spinal anesthesia is well-written and contains many useful practical tips.

The last two sections deal with pain, uncommon diseases, and special problems. They attempt to cover a wide range of topics, from the role of regional anesthesia in outpatient surgery and chronic pain, to management of infants with compromised airways and complex medical conditions. The text contains numerous tables, graphs, and illustrations, most of which are clear and well-labeled. Although this book is published in English, its European heritage is very apparent in the general organization and writing style. I found that the use of a comma in place of a decimal point in drug doses and concentrations is confusing. Inappropriate hyphenations, *e.g.*, completion (page 85), Lido-caine (page 129), hypo-spadias (page 157), inci-sion (page 156), unwanted (page 166), and informa-tion (page 169) are surprisingly frequent in the text.

In summary, the book contains some excellent chapters describing fairly specialized techniques in pediatric regional anesthesia. For the pediatric regional anesthesiologists, the illustrations alone are worth the price of the book, although the sparse citation of literature may be frustrating. For most other pediatric anesthesiologists, information that is needed to perform most of the kiddie-blocks can be found (often in greater detail) in regional anesthesia chapters of many recent pediatric anesthesia textbooks.

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ERRATUM

In the Case Report by Rothstein *et al.* (Rothstein P, Roye D, Verdisco L, Stern L: Preoperative use of erythropoietin in an adolescent Jehovah's witness. *ANESTHESIOLOGY* 73:568-570, 1990), the term "heterologous" should be "homologous" throughout the text (page 568, column 1, paragraph 1, lines 1 and 15; page 568, column 2, paragraph 2, line 10; page 569, column 2, paragraph 4, line 4; and page 570, column 1, line 3).