

## BOOK REVIEWS

Carol A. Hirsbman, M.D., Editor

**Anesthesia for Organ Transplantation.** Edited by Judith A. Fabian. Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott, 1992. Pages: 208. Price: \$49.95.

This brief monograph of the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists provides an overview of important issues in heart, lung, and liver transplantation. As organ transplantation has increasingly gained acceptance, anesthesiologists in a variety of practice settings have had experience with the unique challenges posed in the care of these patients. Scientific developments and clinical experience with transplantation are occurring at a rapid pace; thus, this up-to-date monograph will be welcome reading material for individuals seeking basic information on the topics that are covered. Twenty-one authors have contributed ten chapters, which include material on cardiovascular physiology after cardiac transplantation, cardiopulmonary function after brain death, single-lung transplantation, mechanical devices used as bridge to heart transplantation, immunosuppression, and ethical issues. The text is easy to read and the chapters are appropriately illustrated and include recent references. In some chapters, the attempt to provide a complete overview of a given transplant procedure results in considerable discussion of surgical details with only brief treatment of specific anesthetic issues. While this approach provides good orientation, it may leave the reader hungering for more detailed information. A few of the chapters appear to be minor revisions of the authors' earlier work.

This monograph is most likely aimed to appeal to trainees and to clinicians who do not specialize in the care of patients undergoing transplantation procedures. This book should be useful to many anesthesiologists who are not members of the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists.

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**Evaluation and Treatment of Chronic Pain.** Edited by Gerald M. Aronoff. Baltimore, Williams & Wilkins, 1992. Pages: 570. Price: \$85.00.

In the preface, Aronoff states his goal was to provide a practical and comprehensive review for physicians involved in the clinical management of patients with chronic pain. He is a highly respected practitioner and well published authority in the field of chronic pain management and, certainly, well qualified to oversee such a project. The book consists of 43 chapters from 62 contributors. Unfortunately, the chapters are not organized into sections, which makes it difficult to integrate the broad range of information presented in a book of this magnitude.

There are several chapters on specific pain syndromes. The range of syndromes reviewed is broad, but significant topics such as cervical spine and female pelvic pain are not covered. Most of these chapters are concise and well written and provide an even depth of review. One exception is the chapter "Causalgia and Sympathetic Dystrophy," which is outdated, with no reference more current than 1982.

There are several chapters on the role of each of the major specialties traditionally involved in chronic pain management. In keeping with the editor's own focus, there is a significant emphasis on the psychologic, social, and psychiatric dimensions of chronic pain and its management. These aspects are covered in a series of detailed chapters, and many include the respective authors' insights into specific representative cases. The combination of thorough overview and personal insight makes these chapters a major strength of this book. The chapters on other specialties are more superficial. This lack of detail is particularly evident in the chapter on the role of injections in chronic pain management. The beginning of this chapter is a succinct and thorough review of factors affecting the interpretation of diagnostic injections. The remainder, though, is not as thorough. Several types of diagnostic injections, such as nerve root or intervertebral disc injections for low back pain, were not included. The discussions of techniques failed to mention several issues of current debate, such as the volume of injection for a specific stellate ganglion block. Finally, there is only brief mention of integrating injections with other management modalities. This last point is a major issue for both this chapter in particular and the book in general. The success of any management strategy is predicated largely on how well they are integrated with other appropriate management aspects. This concept forms the basis for the International Association for the Study of Pain's principal recommendation for an integrated rather than serial approach to comprehensive pain management. The concept of integrating management deserves more than the mere passing mention it receives in this and many other chapters in this book.

The remaining chapters covered a variety of subjects, including chapters on thermography, acupuncture, heat and cold therapy in low back pain, and magnetic resonance imaging in low back pain. Although most of these are quite useful, I was particularly disappointed with the chapter on heat and cold therapy in low back pain. This chapter presents original data in a research manuscript format that is inappropriate for a chapter in a practical text. Its inclusion exemplifies the lack of consistency in this book.

In summary, *Evaluation and Treatment of Chronic Pain* lacks the overall organization and consistency to be considered a comprehensive review. It more closely resembles a compendium of articles. The book does provide a brief overview of many of the important dimensions of chronic pain and its management with a particularly insightful and detailed review of the psychosocial aspects. I would recommend it primarily as an introductory review of pain management that may be suited to those individuals whose primary specialty is not in psychiatry or psychology.

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