

■ BOOK REVIEWS

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Atlas of Regional Anesthesia. Second edition. By Jordan Katz, M.D. Norwalk, Appleton and Lange Publishers, 1994. Pages: 238. Price: \$99.00.

The second edition of the *Atlas of Regional Anesthesia* provides comprehensive coverage of nerve blocks performed in the operating room and pain clinic setting. This edition exceeds the excellent quality of the first edition, published in 1985.

The atlas includes the original eight sections—head, neck, upper extremity, thorax, abdomen, pelvis, lower extremity, and spinal and epidural—and a new section on pediatric regional anesthesia. The illustrations that accompany each nerve block description generally are unchanged from the first edition. The primary changes in the drawings are revisions of the illustrations for the upper extremity block and the addition of expected dermatomal spread of nerve blocks for the head, lower extremity, and upper extremity.

The chapter on nerve blocks of the head seems most appropriate for those performing blocks for dental procedures or chronic pain. Blocks are described for the gasserian and sphenopalatine ganglions, and the nasociliary, long ciliary, anterior ethmoidal, supraorbital, supratrochlear, maxillary, infraorbital, mandibular, inferior alveolar, lingual, auriculotemporal, long buccal, masseter, mental, and facial nerves. Retrobulbar and peribulbar blocks of the eye are illustrated, as well as field blocks of the nose, ear, and scalp.

The chapter on blocks in the neck includes blocks useful to practitioners in chronic pain, such as the cervical plexus, stellate ganglion, and greater and lesser occipital nerves, whereas descriptions of blockade of the glossopharyngeal, recurrent laryngeal, and superior laryngeal nerves may be most useful in the operating room setting.

The section describing blocks of the upper extremity includes four approaches to the brachial plexus; supraclavicular, infraclavicular, axillary, and interscalene. Descriptions of more peripheral blocks of the upper extremity include blockade of the radial, median, and ulnar nerves at the elbow or at the wrist.

The chapter covering nerve blockade in the thorax includes the thoracic paravertebral, intercostal, and splanchnic nerves, the thoracic sympathetic ganglion, and the field block of the breast. Section 5 describes nerve blocks of the abdomen and includes lumbar somatic, ilioinguinal, iliohypogastric, and genitofemoral nerves, the celiac plexus, lumbar sympathetic ganglion, and field blocks of the abdomen and inguinal region.

Section 6 describes blocks of the pelvis and includes sacral, pudendal, paracervical, and penile nerve blocks. Section 7 describes blocks of the lower extremity. These descriptions include the femoral, sciatic, obturator, and laterofemoral cutaneous nerves. Blockade of the saphenous, tibial, and common peroneal nerves at the knee are described, as well as the five sensory nerves at the ankle necessary to achieve an ankle block.

Section 8 describes spinal and epidural anesthesia. Descriptions are provided for midline and paramedian approaches to the spinal and epidural space for single or continuous techniques at the lumbar, thoracic and cervical levels.

The section of pediatric regional anesthesia includes 15 pages of nerve blocks useful for patients seen in this population. The procedures described include caudal, spinal, axillary, interscalene, ilioinguinal and iliohypogastric, penile, sciatic, and femoral nerve blocks.

The most obvious change in the new edition is an expansion of the descriptive text that accompanies each block. Previously, a de-

scription of the anatomy and technique appeared immediately adjacent to the illustrated anatomy. This description has been expanded to include a description of the indications and complications for many of the nerve blocks. The descriptions are brief but inclusive enough to guide a novice through the anatomic landmarks and the technique of the block. Finally, the index for the second edition has been expanded to twice that in edition 1.

The *Atlas of Regional Anesthesia* is a helpful guide to practitioners of regional anesthesia and pain management. The expanded second edition belongs in every departmental library and the personal library of anesthesiologists frequently involved in regional anesthesia and pain.

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Anesthesia and Co-Existing Disease. 3rd edition. Robert D. Stoelting and Stephen F. Dierdorf. New York, Churchill-Livingstone, 1993. Pages: 678. Price: \$79.95.

The authors state in the preface to the third edition of *Anesthesia and Co-Existing Disease* that their goal is to provide the reader with a current and concise description of the pathophysiology of disease and its impact, if any, on the management of anesthesia. In large part this goal is accomplished. The current edition improves on the second edition: it has larger type and many updated chapters, some current to within 6 months of publication. The style of the book is consistent, and tables, drawings, and reproductions are generally of high quality. The cost of the book is extremely reasonable.

If any significant criticism of this book can be made, it relates to the breadth of the subject matter the book attempts to cover. Pediatrics and diseases unique to the parturient woman as well as general adult medicine are covered. The attempt to condense relevant aspects of these diverse fields inevitably leads occasionally to superficial discussions. The complex topic of preoperative cardiac assessment for noncardiac surgery, for example, is reduced to one paragraph. The chapter on abnormalities of cardiac conduction and cardiac rhythm contains a useful discussion of antidysrhythmic drugs, including newer agents such as adenosine, but has no electrocardiograms demonstrating the arrhythmias being discussed!—Sometimes a picture really is worth a thousand words. On the other hand, discussion of valvular heart disease, in which the practical aspects of anesthetic management are emphasized, is succinct and lucid. Common diseases and their anesthetic implications are stressed, but rare conditions also are mentioned. Informative chapters on cancer and disorders related to immune system dysfunction are included. The chapter on psychiatric illness and substance abuse is particularly good. A brief discussion of the particular psychiatric disease and its treatment is followed by discussions of management of anesthesia. Thus the discussion of depression is followed by sections on the management of anesthesia for patients receiving tricyclic antidepressant agents, re-