

REVIEWS OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL

James C. Eisenach, M.D., Editor

Atlas of Anesthesia Volume VII: Pediatric Anesthesia. Series editor: Ronald D. Miller. Volume editor: William J. Greeley. Philadelphia, Current Medicine, 1999. Cost of book: \$135. Cost of CD-ROM: \$195.

The multivolume series *Atlas of Anesthesia* has tried a visual method of presenting textbook information. The presentation mode of each volume is to deliver the information primarily in a format of tables, algorithms, figures, and pictures, all with descriptive headings. There is very little text. *Pediatric Anesthesia*, the seventh volume, seeks to use the visual media to "enhance the understanding of the medical conditions and surgical procedures encountered during the anesthetic management of children."

The book is divided into two sections. The first is divided into four chapters of basic principles: physiology, pharmacology, perioperative management, and regional anesthesia. Attempting to present highlights of the unique physiology of pediatric patients in 15 pages is a difficult task. Several of the figures and charts are classics and speak volumes. One or two are a bit confusing and relied on the heading to explain the context. The chapter on pharmacology presented a concise review of developmental changes, followed by an in-depth review of narcotics and muscle relaxants in children. In particular, the latter is easy to understand when presented as figures. It would have been nice to see inclusion of remifentanyl and rapacuronium in this chapter to make it comprehensive. The chapter on perioperative management is well done, with great tips on topics such as premedication and parental presence. This chapter primarily uses charts to convey the information, but, again, it was easily assimilated. The last chapter in this section highlighted various central and peripheral nerve blocks. Obviously, this chapter contained a lot of illustrations with concise headings describing how to perform the blocks. I found it to be fairly inclusive of the blocks used in everyday practice.

The second section of the book is dedicated to specific topics within pediatric anesthesia. The chapter on neonatal anesthesia had the difficult task of addressing not only physiology and pharmacology, but also specific types of surgery unique to neonates. Although some of the algorithms and tables for management of specific entities such as pyloric stenosis and congenital diaphragmatic hernia were overly simplified to present in this format, it was possible to quickly pick out the key issues in each type of condition.

Chapters that were particularly well done included a good review of pediatric ophthalmologic surgery in chapter 10, detailed figures demonstrating the methods of delivering anesthesia during shared airways in chapter 11, and chapter 14, which deals with chronic diseases such as cerebral palsy and sickle cell disease. Because a picture can better depict the environment of performing anesthesia in outside locations, the chapter on this topic was very helpful with its numerous photographs (and the green tint of many of them conveyed the feeling many of us have when asked to go to those locations).

Two chapters that stand out as fairly unique in their subject matter are those dealing with anesthesia for fetal surgery (chapter 15) and postoperative care (chapter 16). The photographs, tables, and charts are interesting in these areas not commonly addressed in pediatric anesthesia texts.

The CD-ROM is identical in its material to the textbook. It was easy for a non-computer-literate type such as myself to use with either a MAC (68020 or better, minimum of 6 MB of RAM; System 7 or higher)

or PC Windows (minimum 4 MB of RAM; Windows 3.1 or higher). I easily scrolled through the material and could quickly make slides from the tables and charts. The price is higher for the CD-ROM than for the textbook; again, one's learning style and the convenience may justify the cost for some.

I must confess that I actually purchased this textbook several months ago. I recognized the value of so many excellent tables and figures to be used as teaching slides in my academic practice. The authors have done a superb job of putting together information for concise presentation. Is this a textbook that one would have for reference? I think that depends on your method of learning. Certainly it is not an all-inclusive textbook of pediatric anesthesia and does not claim to replace more thorough texts. However, when I showed the atlas to residents, some thought they would learn better with this more visual format, and despite the cost, would like to have it on their shelves. It is an interesting and colorful addition to our pediatric anesthesia armamentarium.

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Acute Paediatric Pain Management: A Practical Guide. Edited by Neil S. Morton. Philadelphia, Saunders, 1998. Pages: 296. List Price: \$29.95.

This book is edited by Neil S. Morton from the Department of Anaesthesia, Intensive Care, and Pain Management in the Royal Hospital for Sick Children at the University of Glasgow. All of the contributors are currently in practice in Europe, either Scotland or Denmark.

The book is divided into 10 sections that include pain prevention and management, developmental pain, pain assessment, pharmacology of analgesics, local and regional anaesthesia, opioids, nonpharmacologic alternative techniques, sedation, and specific plans for pain management. At the end of each chapter, the key learning points are summarized in a list and highlighted. The book has no pictures and very few diagrams. Tables are used frequently, are easy to locate, and often contain important clinical information. A list for further reading concludes each chapter. The book has several appendices that contain examples of protocols and general information on specific techniques.

The initial chapter is entitled, "Pain Prevention and Management," but is really about the rationale for pain management and education. It is concise, with useful summary tables. The book continues with an adequate overview of the development of pediatric pain perception but does not incorporate this information into the clinical management of pain during development.

The pain assessment section makes good use of tables. An excellent overview of the value of the different pain scales is provided, but it contains no description of the content of the actual scales themselves. However, the appendix does contain the more practical face scale, analog scale, and the poker chips scale.

The book continues with a section on pharmacology of analgesics. This chapter is written at the basic level, with many sweeping generalizations and little or no explanation or discussion of the exceptions to the generalities.

The local and regional, opioid, and nonopioid technique sections are better written. However, not all techniques are given the same attention, and some are only mentioned as possibilities. The local and regional section does not use enough tables and is further hampered by the lack of diagrams and pictures. The opioid section provides many tables, recipes, and protocols that are useful as guidelines with better references than elsewhere. Many different uses of the opioids are covered, with a good discussion of their side effects.

The section on nonpharmacologic techniques is poorly developed. In addition, many of the alternative approaches to pain management, both pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic, are not mentioned.

The sedation section is well written and contains good, sound information. Included are sample protocol sheets from the Royal Hospital for Sick Children. Numerous techniques are discussed with the focus on entonox, benzodiazepines, and opioids. Propofol is not mentioned, and the discussions of ketamine, barbiturates, and chloral hydrate are limited. The subsequent section on specific plans for pain prevention and control is a valuable addition; it outlines the concerns

and considerations for many common pediatric procedures. This is a unique section and provides benefit for those learning about these procedures.

In summary, the book provides a good overview of basic pain management in children. Specific referencing would have added to the scientific validity of several of the chapters. Objectives are clearly stated for each chapter, and tables are used liberally to enhance understanding and emphasize salient points. Overall, the book is well written and easy to understand. It is small, compact, and fits into the pocket of a laboratory coat. This book would be of most benefit to those interested in gaining a better understanding of pain and pain management in children from the anesthesiologist's and perioperative physician's perspective, particularly those in training in anesthesia and the surgical specialties.

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