

*Michael J. Avram, Ph.D., Editor*

### **Clinical Anesthesia Procedures of the Massachusetts General Hospital, Eighth Edition.**

Edited by Wilton C. Levine, M.D., Rae M. Allain, M.D., Theodore A. Alston, M.D., Ph.D., Peter F. Dunn, M.D., Jean Kwo, M.D., Carl E. Rosow, M.D., Ph.D. Philadelphia, Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, 2010. Pages: 728. Price: \$49.95.

*Clinical Anesthesia Procedures of the Massachusetts General Hospital, Eighth Edition* accomplishes its goals of emphasizing clinical fundamentals for perioperative anesthetic management. The handbook is well organized and caters to all levels of anesthesia providers, including medical students, residents, nurse anesthetists, and anesthesiologists. The book is intended to “augment experienced clinical teaching and inspire more detailed study.” Each chapter includes a robust list of suggested reading for further study.

The authors have preserved the overall organization of the book, which includes preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative management issues. This approach makes information easily accessible, which is crucial while on call or in an emergency situation. The chapters are well written in an organized outline layout and supplemented with excellent tables and illustrations.

The preoperative sections cover a myriad of clinical topics and provide a brief overview of basic organ physiology. The chapter on cardiac disease offers a solid summary of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association guidelines, valvular disease pathophysiology and management, and perioperative pacemaker management. The intraoperative sections tackle multiple topics ranging from neuromuscular blockade monitoring to anesthesia outside of the operating room. Perhaps the most useful section is the one on intraoperative problems, which offers differentials for likely intraoperative complications. Every trainee should have this section memorized. The regional anesthesia chapter is an excellent resource for peripheral nerve block procedures. The perioperative section addresses issues including postanesthesia care unit, respiratory failure, pain management, and end-of-life issues.

This edition has undergone subtle updates and changes to make the text easier to read. Although the book maintains its pocket-size dimension, it is wider, which allows for a larger font. The book continues to refine and update information in our field as it changes. Many chapters have been rewritten and reorganized to convey critical information more clearly. More dramatic changes are seen in the chapter on transfusion therapy, including updates on estimating blood volume in obese patients, transfusion-related acute lung injury, graft

versus host disease, and the new data on the utility of aprotinin. Readers will find updated guidelines for Advanced Cardiac Life Support, endocarditis prophylaxis, central line placement (although the ultrasound-guided technique is not described), and hand hygiene. This edition describes practices such as laryngeal mask airway use for thyroidectomies, paravertebral blocks, vagal nerve stimulators for epilepsy, episcleral blocks, and anesthesia for percutaneous lung biopsy. New medications for hypertension and diabetes are discussed. Finally, the handbook stimulates the reader to pursue further study of ongoing debates such as oxygen and wound healing, utility of positive end-expiratory pressure, overall management of fluid, recommendations for blood transfusion, postoperative cognitive dysfunction, fluid management in burn patients, and acupuncture.

Overall, this is a fantastic pocket reference that ambitiously tackles most aspects of anesthesia care. The book continues to peripherally address complex topics for students with an existing understanding of our field. The updated reference list at the end of every chapter directs readers to more intense review of topics. The book underwent dramatic revisions from the sixth to the seventh edition. Although this new edition contains subtle changes from its previous form, the updates on guidelines and medications warrant its purchase. With the advent of smart phones and computer access in the operating room, the utility of this book may change. However, if cellular reception is poor, computer access is limited, time is limited, and I could have one handbook with me ... it would be *Clinical Anesthesia Procedures of the Massachusetts General Hospital, Eighth Edition*.

**Rena Beckerly, M.D., M.B.A.**, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois. r\_beckerly@hotmail.com

*(Accepted for publication March 25, 2011.)*

### **International Anesthesiology Clinics: Current Topics in Peripheral Nerve Blockade.**

Edited by Gabriella Iohom, M.D. and George Shorten, M.D. Philadelphia, Lippincott Williams and Wilkins, 2010. Pages: 140. Price: \$162.00.

Regional anesthesia is the hottest topic in anesthesiology. It is not surprising that *Current Topics in Peripheral Nerve Blockade* was chosen as the subject of the fall quarter edition of the International Anesthesiology Clinics. The editors included chapters on some of the “hot” topics in peripheral nerve block: the role of ultrasound; local anesthetic dose and volume used in ultrasound-guided techniques; perineural catheter techniques; and the management of local anesthetic toxicity. They are to be commended for also including topics

that are just as important but perhaps not quite as “hot,” such as: developing a training program; simulation for training in ultrasound-guided peripheral nerve blockade; sepsis in regional anesthesia; acute compartment syndrome; and intraneural injection and peripheral nerve injury.

This is a small (140 pages), easily-read volume with 10 discreet chapters. Each chapter was written by recognized experts in their fields. Each of the chapters stands alone, making this a very easy read for the busy professional. On the other hand, as a multiauthored text, this volume does contain some repetition and inconsistency. These issues are minor nuisances, such as referring to ultrasound-guided regional anesthesia variably as UGRA, USGRA, and USgPNB. Similarly, having separate chapters on developing a training program, the role of ultrasound in regional anesthesia, and simulation for training in USgPNB leads to considerable repetition.

The chapter on developing a training program, written by Jyh Shen Tan, M.B.B.S., M.Med., Ki Jinn Chin, M.B.B.S., M.Med., F.A.N.Z.C.A., F.R.C.P.C., and Vincent W.S. Chan, M.D., F.R.C.P.S. (all from Toronto Western Hospital, Toronto, Ontario, Canada), is even-handed and extremely informative. As a division chief of regional anesthesia and perioperative pain medicine, I found it to be the most concise but complete synthesis of this topic that I have encountered. I would strongly recommend this chapter to anyone participating in education in this field. The related chapter on simulation for training in ultrasound-guided peripheral nerve block provides an excellent overview of this very timely topic. Of particular interest is a table suggesting the desirable characteristics of the ideal simulator for this training. The chapter on sepsis is an excellent summary of the evidence on the subject and is a call to arms to improve compliance with basic aseptic techniques in our field. The authors for the chapters on local anesthetic dose and volume with ultrasound, nerve injury, perineural catheters, and local anesthetic toxicity provide a thorough review and balanced coverage of the topics. These chapters are well written. The

chapter on regional anesthesia in acute compartment syndrome by Stephen Mannion, M.D., F.C.A.R.C.S.I., M.R.C.P.I. (Department of Anesthesiology, South Infirmary-Victoria University Hospital, Cork, Ireland) and Xavier Capdevila, Ph.D., M.D. (Professor, Department of Anesthesia and Intensive Care, Hôpital Lapeyronie, Montpellier, France) deserves particular praise. This is one of the best summaries of this topic to date. First they provide a good background on the pathophysiology of the phenomena and the current state of the art for diagnosis and treatment. They then provide a thorough review of the literature on the subject, followed by well supported recommendations. As I believe that a thorough understanding of this topic is essential for anyone who hopes to be considered a consultant in regional or orthopedic anesthesia, this chapter alone justifies the publication of this monograph. It will become required reading for our residents and fellows.

My only criticisms of this volume are minor in nature. One surprise was that the chapter on *the* “hot” topic, ultrasound, was only eight pages long and contained only one poor-quality ultrasound image. Much of this was a discussion of the future possibilities of three-dimensional and four-dimensional imaging. I believe the readership of this type of monograph would appreciate a more “current topics” approach to this area. The chapter on adjuvants in peripheral nerve blockade, although well done, seems a bit “old hat” for this type of volume and does not present any particularly new or practice-changing information.

In conclusion, *Current Topics in Peripheral Nerve Blockade* provides a useful, thought-provoking read for anyone interested in this area. Although it does not supplant the need for textbooks for broader coverage of this topic, I believe the editors met their stated goal of providing a well-written, informative, and thought-provoking monograph.

**Stephen Lucas, M.D.**, University of Florida College of Medicine, Gainesville, Florida. slucas@anest.ufl.edu

(Accepted for publication March 25, 2011.)