As a daily reference, each topic is easy to find. Topics are in alphabetical order, which makes the contents organized by subspecialty and an included index irrelevant. Nevertheless, this organization makes it easy to determine whether a certain topic is included. All topics in the hardcopy version are covered in two pages that can be viewed simultaneously. Although the information is dense, the outline format allows a reader to gain a fair understanding of the material in a short time. The alphabetized topics allow quick and easy cross-referencing within the book when flipping to associated diseases. As an added bonus, the International Statistical Classification of Disease (Ninth Revision and Tenth Revision) codes are included at the end of each article.

This book may prove useful as a teaching guide and learning tool for trainees. Trainees could use this book daily and between cases to review implications of their patient’s medical history and develop a safe and effective anesthetic plan. Disease states and concepts included in the text can be easily discussed between attending and trainee throughout the day. Many of the topics are given a list of Clinical Pearls at the end of the section. Despite being a concise resource, at over 1,000 pages the book is too cumbersome to be routinely carried around.

The online access is easy to navigate and the format is almost identical to that of the hardcopy. It is fully searchable by keyword, but the number of keystrokes and links it takes to find and read about a topic may render the hardcopy of the book more user-friendly. Hopefully, the material will become available in a smartphone mobile app version similar to other 5 Minute Consult series.

The 5 Minute Anesthesia Consult should also be useful to a practicing anesthesia provider looking for a quick reference text or to the aspiring anesthesia trainee as a start to developing a wide breadth of knowledge. The late publication of this first edition and references listed imply the most current information. The listed authors seem reliable but have variable expertise of the field. The format of the book is truly one of its most valuable assets, because it enables a rapid subject search, easy reading, and paves the way for updateable subsequent editions. In no way is this textbook the most comprehensive reference for general anesthesia available, but it can serve as a quick reference guide and review tool. The book could become a favorite resource to trainees based on the wide range of topics conveniently available from a single source.

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