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Pediatric Procedural Sedation and Analgesia. By Baruch Krauss, M.D., Ed.M., Robert M. Brustowicz, M.D. Philadelphia, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 1999. Pages: 321. Price: \$37.95.

For most non-anesthesiology-trained healthcare providers, developing expertise in the use of sedatives and analgesics can be difficult. Unless one is in a training program (*i.e.*, critical care medicine, emergency medicine) that regularly provides the supervision and education necessary, the trainee's experience is often limited by infrequent encounters, minimal versatility, and a less-than-comprehensive understanding of the issues. Sedation protocols attempt to deal with this by providing dosing and monitoring guidelines to make the process safer, although usually intellectually unsatisfying.

Given these facts and the increasing attention paid to "conscious" sedation, Krause and Brustowicz's book is timely. Written predominantly by emergency medicine physicians and anesthesiologists, this collaboration provides a concise, easy-to-read overview of procedural sedation and analgesia (PSA) from a pediatric perspective. It is divided into three sections, which discuss basic science (Scientific Foundation), practical sedation and analgesia issues (Principles and Management Strategies), and procedure scenarios (Nonelective Procedures). The Scientific Foundation section devotes two chapters to physiology and nine to pharmacology. These chapters contain the core information necessary to understand the medications used for PSA and their impact. The Principles and Management Strategies section delineates the practical issues that are key to safe and effective PSA. Topics such as pre-sedation and post-sedation evaluation, medicolegal aspects, and specific situations (*i.e.*, trauma patients, transport, and emergency department) are included. The last section, Nonelective Procedures, presents a wide variety of potential PSA situations, divided by region of the body. For example, there are chapters devoted to procedures of the head and neck, chest, abdomen, musculoskeletal tissues, and soft tissues, which also are practically presented, with special considerations identified for each region and procedure. Many of the chapters make good use of flow diagrams and algorithms to offer medication options or to delineate clinical implications.

The book is an attractive azure with a pastel insert, fitting for a sedation text. It has a reinforced soft cover that fits easily in a lab coat side pocket. The binding seems durable, and the print is easy to read on low-glare paper. The chapters are well-referenced and organized in a logical fashion. The index is extensive, with good cross-referencing. The authors and editors have done an excellent job in proofing the material.

No review is complete without a few suggestions for future editions. Uniform summary tables in the pharmacology section would be helpful. Though it would give some redundancy to other parts of the text, it would speed up information retrieval when checking a dose or interaction. Opinions about the book were sought from 10 pediatric residents and critical care fellows. Uniformly, they thought the material would be helpful as they develop PSA expertise. However, they thought that the size of the book would prevent them from carrying it around. One solution is further condensation and smaller print. A better approach might be making a version available for hand-held personal information devices (*i.e.*, palm pilot) so one could easily pull up an algorithm or checklist.

In summary, this book is a winner. It helps fill a void by combining physiology, pharmacology, and clinical experience in PSA in one neat package. Healthcare providers, particularly those developing patient care expertise, would benefit greatly. More senior individuals could incorporate the text as an educational tool. The \$37.95 price tag is more than worth it.

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Anesthesia for Genetic, Metabolic, & Dysmorphic Syndromes of Childhood. Edited by Victor C. Baum, Jennifer E. O'Flaherty. Philadelphia, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 1999. Pages: 352. Price: \$99.00.

Both editors of this slim, hardcover book are not only pediatric anesthesiologists, but also pediatricians. The text is intended for those who have occasion to care for children (and adults) with rare conditions or syndromes that develop during childhood and who, like me, cannot remember all the important anesthetic implications of each. All of us in pediatric anesthesia are presented not infrequently with the scenario described by the authors in their preface—having a patient with "some bizarre syndrome" in need of a quick curbside consult. This text provides that consult in a well-organized and efficient manner. Previously, this information was not available or was available only in texts not directed toward anesthesiologists. Typically, standard pediatric anesthesiology texts omit information about the multitude of syndromes and conditions encountered in children, or the information is abbreviated greatly and included only as a table or glossary. This text, however, is devoted entirely to the myriad syndromes, many of which we never see in our day-to-day practice. However, because there are so many syndromes, even if we see a small fraction of them, it may constitute an almost weekly problem.

The text is arranged alphabetically by the most common name of the syndrome or condition, providing a quick and easy way to find information. Information is provided in a standardized format, also facilitating a quick topic review. It is clear, concise, and practical. Clearly, the authors did not intend to provide a comprehensive review of the syndromes or their anesthetic managements. There is an assumption of knowledge on the part of the authors that allows the sections to be necessarily brief. Information is provided about the syndrome in general and the anesthetic implications specifically. However, the authors presume, for example, that the reader knows what malignant hyperthermia is and how it is managed.

Because the book is arranged alphabetically, there is no need for the usual index. Unfortunately, the authors chose not to include an index that would allow the clinician to discern the name of a syndrome based on its features, which is common in many or most standard texts on dysmorphism. For example, it is not uncommon to be presented with a child who has a constellation of conditions, such as cleft palate, mid-face hypoplasia, craniosynostosis, and so forth, and the question is what is this and what should I worry about? An index organized by clinical presentation would allow the clinician to decide what syndrome the child has and care for him or her accordingly.

Black and white photographs of some of the syndromes are included and are extremely helpful. One wonders if more photographs would allow the anesthesiologist to visualize better the descriptions in the text. Frequently, we plan the anesthetic management of patients we will not see for hours or days. Several of the photographs do not name the syndrome in the accompanying caption, creating the possibility of confusion as to the appearance of one syndrome *versus* another whose text is adjacent (*e.g.*, Hurler *vs.* Hunter). It is recognized that the addition of more photographs or the use of color plates almost certainly would make this relatively modestly priced text prohibitively expensive.

This is a book that should be in the library of all those involved in the anesthetic care of children with complex problems. More appropriate may be two copies, one in the library and one in close proximity to the operating area.

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