specificity of individual chapters means it is quite easy to pick this book up and read through a single chapter relatively quickly. At the end of each chapter, the author has included a useful summary of points covered and a reference list for further reading.

An added benefit of purchasing this book is that it allows access to an online resource provided by the publisher. This contains a series of self-assessment single best answer type questions, a number of powerpoint presentations, and electronic access to references used in each chapter. The reader will also find electronic copies of all diagrams used within the book. These are printable and downloadable and I expect will form a very useful teaching tool.

Is this textbook relevant or of use to anaesthetists? Initially, a reader might be a bit intimidated by a book of more than 400 pages, which focuses solely on just cardiovascular physiology. I would strongly suggest that any reservations be put aside. I feel that this book is comprehensive, well presented, and is particularly easy to read. The editor is to be commended for the quality and consistency of its content. The recurrent chestnuts of cardiovascular physiology central to the Primary FRCA examination are well covered. The only notable absence of topics covered is the physiology relevant to the fetal circulation and the placenta. I would expect that most anaesthetic trainees will find this book particularly useful as part of the general training, but also in preparation for the exams. I would also suggest that it represents an important resource to established senior anaesthetists. It may not necessarily be a book you might buy for your own individual use, but I would have no hesitation in recommending that it be purchased as a valuable addition to any anaesthetic department library.

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This is a beautiful big book. Beautiful because it contains many black and white and colour images and figures which are very well reproduced and easy to interpret, and is well laid out and printed in an easy to read font on high-quality thick paper pages. The format of the chapters is consistent throughout the book; key learning points are presented at the end of each chapter in a bullet-point arrangement and there are numerous up-to-date references throughout (up to 100 in some chapters). Each chapter also consists of a number of single-best-answer multiple-choice questions, the answers to which are given at the end of the book, along with a detailed explanation to aid revision. Each table and box is highlighted in coloured font and background, making them stand out and easy to read. However, it is big. Big and heavy, more than 750 pages in total, and it comes with access to an online repository of further images and videos which is easy to access and potentially of great utility. It is certainly comprehensive, as the title suggests—if you know everything in here you will know pretty much everything about perioperative echo. However, it is not easily portable, meaning it will be best employed as a reference book, or to allow detailed understanding about individual topics. I particularly liked the appendices, which consist of 16 tables of normal values and summaries about grading severity of the most common cardiac lesions. These are printed on card and with perforated edges, making them easy to tear out of the book—this means they can be easily carried separately as an aide memoire or displayed in an appropriate place.

Section 1 contains chapters relevant to beginners in echocardiography. The chapter on physics is well laid out but somewhat heavy going. It will certainly facilitate answering any question about the physics of ultrasound, but may require reading a number of times to take it all in. Imaging artifacts and pitfalls and ‘knobology’ (practical manipulation of the probe and machine) are also very well described. In addition to other similar books, management and training issues are covered in separate chapters, including looking after and cleaning the equipment and a number of very useful tips for storing and organizing data. Finally, chapters on non-cardiac surgery and ultrasound for vascular access have been added since publication of the first edition in 2004.

Section 2 covers echocardiography in the intensive care unit (ICU). There is no doubt that the role of echo in the ICU has expanded over the last decade; indeed, a number of courses have now been developed covering this entity alone. Disappointingly however, this section is still relatively small, and could have been expanded to include further details about other ultrasound modalities such as transthoracic echo and plain ultrasound of the chest and abdomen to truly make this textbook perioperative as the editors have claimed.

The final section covers advanced applications, mostly during cardiac surgery. The chapter on the mitral and tricuspid valves is excellent, as is the chapter regarding mitral valve repair per se, which explains very clearly the precise relationship between echo findings and the surgical procedure undertaken. This book has come too early to cover new procedures such as transcatheter valve implantation and minimally invasive mitral valve procedures, and perhaps most disappointingly to experienced practitioners is the lack of content throughout the book on three-dimensional imaging. This has emerged in the last decade to become a very popular modality, but only merits 11 pages in this comprehensive textbook. One would have hoped for 3D images throughout the book and the application of this technology in each separate chapter about pathology and surgery to be discussed.
There is no doubt that there is more than enough knowledge in this book to allow practitioners taking up the speciality to pass either the American, British, or European examinations, indeed to a very high standard. Echocardiography is now undoubtedly part and parcel of every cardiac anaesthetist’s armamentarium, and indeed many non-cardiac anaesthetists and intensivists. This book will be a valuable and well-used reference book in any department, and will certainly appeal to both beginners and experts alike. The presentation and printing is visually stunning; it is easy to read and understand and fulfils many of its ambitions. The editors and authors should be congratulated on improving what was already a very popular first edition, making purchase of this new version very tempting.

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This is a moderate-sized textbook of a little more than 600 pages and provides an introduction to acute, chronic, and cancer pain management. The editors are from Hong Kong and the text is aimed principally at pain medicine trainees preparing for the FFPM of the Hong Kong College of Anaesthetists. Evaluation of past papers from the exam from the College website is easy enough to do and reveals that most, although not all topics in the past papers, are covered. The book is arranged in a traditional format by division into five sections: basic science, common pain conditions, pharmacology, interventional procedures, and multidisciplinary pain management. Many common pain conditions are supported with both acute and chronic pain management, although most of the book describes conditions associated with chronic pain and the interventions to manage them.

The chapters have a consistent format and begin with a useful summary of the contents. In general, the chapters are of a descriptive nature rather than a practical, hands-on approach. There is a notable difference in the content of the chapters with respect to detail, and some in the chronic pain field fall rather short of what I would expect for students facing a faculty exam. This arises from the limited extent of the evidence base for many of the interventions, but I would have expected a wider discussion of the evidence available. This is most apparent in the chapters on neck and back pain, particularly when one considers that about half of all new patients in a UK pain clinic present with spinal pain. Some of the information is elsewhere in the book, but the cross-referencing and indexing is limited.

The editors emphasize the multidisciplinary nature of pain management and this is reflected in the broad range of expertise of the authors. However, the traditional arrangement of the chapters means that there is little integration, for example, psychology of pain is generally absent from the chapters on common pain conditions. While two good chapters on Pain Psychology are present, they stand apart, and readers new to pain medicine (at whom this book is aimed) may fail to grasp the complexities of chronic pain management and the important role of clinical psychology within it.

There are a few omissions that may be specific for UK trainees, mainly pharmacological, such as the absence of information on diamorphine and l-bupivacaine and minimum on oxycodone.

There is much to recommend this book. It covers a huge topic in a concise manner and by and large does it well. The general anaesthetist from the UK will not choose this book over many others for acute pain management, but it may be of interest to those wanting an introduction to chronic pain. I would hope a second edition to include improvements that would make it a better investment.

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