These topics are followed by chapters on the conduct of anaesthesia for a variety of operations and cover preoperative assessment, minor procedures, and surgery to the lung, airway, chest, pleura, upper gastrointestinal tract, and mediastinum. The latter part of the book covers management of thoracic trauma, perioperative complications, critical care, and specific anaesthetic techniques. In addition to particular issues related to thoracic anaesthesia, the book contains a considerable quantity of general medical information.

The book is easy to read, since it contains clear headings, subheadings, and bullet points. Clear classification provides a framework for assimilation of a broad spectrum of information. There are, in addition, a number of acronyms and other abbreviations which assist learning. Key points are emphasized throughout the book. Between topics, there are blank spaces for readers to make notes. Despite the multiple authorship, there is excellent uniformity in the various chapters.

The text has clarity, breadth and depth, and should appeal to a broad spectrum of anaesthetists. For the junior doctor, the book is likely to provide essential knowledge for a day in the thoracic theatre. For example, the section on decortication covers pathophysiology, risk factors, clinical features, and principles of perioperative management. Each part could be read in 15 minutes whilst having a coffee break. This book may well be useful for examination candidates as it provides a framework for answering short essay questions. The book may appeal also to senior anaesthetists because it covers a broad number of topics including areas which they may encounter occasionally, for instance, lung transplantation, diaphragmatic rupture, and penetrating trauma. In addition, the book will be of use for case-based discussions or viva voce practice with junior colleagues.

I did find a few minor limitations in relation to content and presentation. For instance, one problem with a pocket-sized book is that figures, tables, and continuous prose are kept to a minimum, by necessity. Figures and in-depth discussion facilitate deeper understanding and so some readers may still prefer a larger textbook. The UK guidelines for lung cancer surgery were updated in 2010, and unfortunately, they were not included in this book. I was surprised to see that the section on analgesia did not feature intrathecal morphine which is effective for post-thoracotomy pain. Finally, the presentation could have benefited from a colour scheme other than only black and orange.

In conclusion, *Thoracic Anaesthesia* is a well-presented, pocket-sized book. It should be of interest and use to a wide range of anaesthetists. I would like to congratulate the authors and editors on this book.

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The majority of patients in the Pain Clinic have one of a relatively small number of diagnoses. Around 50% of patients in our clinic have spine pain and so we have become fairly adept at the diagnosis of spinal pain. However, there are many conditions that we see only very occasionally, not least because they fall under the remit of other specialities, but they may find their way to the Pain Clinic and so we need to be familiar with them, for example, cluster headache, plantar fasciitis, or manubriosternal syndrome. Making the correct diagnosis is the first step and making the correct diagnosis is the principle behind Steven Waldman’s Atlas. He describes more than 120 painful conditions, the majority of which are disorders of the musculoskeletal system and which vary in complexity from bursitis or tendonitis to radiculopathy, discitis, or phantom pain.

This book is one from a series of Atlases in which the entire content of the book is available online under ‘expertconsult.com’ once the hardback is purchased. Each condition is placed into one of 16 sections depending on the anatomical location. Each condition is dealt with in a short chapter, two to three pages, which can be read in less than 15 min, making it a useful practical reference text. The chapters are clear and well presented, with each arranged in sections of signs and symptoms, tests, differential diagnosis, and treatment. There are numerous diagrams, X-ray, and CT images. There are few references, but this is not a book for in-depth study, there are plenty of those already available. Rather, it is an atlas to have in the clinic for frequent and quick reference.

I expect this book will be popular to all medical and non-medical pain specialists. It has gone down well in my clinic and I think represents a good investment.

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