
Book Reviews

Manual of Pain Management

Carol A. Warfield (Ed.). J.B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, 1991. pp 384. \$49.50 U.S. ISBN 0-397-50879-4

This manual of pain management is a worthwhile guide for all physicians. The book is a collection of chapters from 34 contributing authors which gives an excellent overview of pain management. The manual covers diagnostic methods as well as therapeutic options, including both pharmacological and non-pharmacological alternatives.

The manual is divided into four sections. Part I – Understanding Pain – describes the pathophysiology of pain and a wide range of diagnostic methods from psychological testing to thermography.

Part II – Pain by Anatomic Location – consists of individual chapters on topics such as headache, low-back pain, and pelvic pain. Each chapter outlines the clinical approach to the patient with localized pain as their presenting complaint.

Part III – Common Painful Syndromes – covers the management of cancer pain, acute postoperative pain, phantom limb pain and neuropathics of various aetiologies.

Part IV – Pain Management – lists the entire spectrum of therapeutic options for managing pain of various etiology and severity. A special sub-section on medications includes many pharmacological alternatives: systemic analgesics, psychotropic drugs, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory agents, local anaesthetics and opioids.

This book is well written, the text is coherent and in logical sequence. The charts, tables and illustrations are clear, concise and informative. The introduction includes a particularly interesting section on the history of pain management.

This manual is of interest to all physicians responsible for pain management: medical students, general practitioners, surgeons, and anaesthetists. This book is recommended as an important addition to the hospital/anaesthesia library and would be of particular use as a quick reference manual in the chronic pain clinic.

Dr. Warfield and her contributing authors should be congratulated on such fine work. This book is a timely addition to our library given the renaissance of interest in both acute and chronic pain management.

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Intraoperative Use of Echocardiography

Norbert P. deBruijn, Fiona M. Clements (Eds.). J.B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, 1991. 225 pages. \$49.95 U.S. ISBN 0-397-51128-0

This monograph (Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists) is very timely. Intraoperative echocardiography is a rapidly developing monitor and diagnostic tool in anaesthesia and surgery. Its current status and areas of development are discussed, with particular emphasis on the role of the anaesthetist.

This book does not pretend to be a complete echocardiography text but is designed as a source of the relevant basics of echocardiography and of the recent developments in the use of intraoperative techniques. It is an excellent introduction for the uninformed, a good state-of-the-art review for those recently exposed to the field, and an important resource for those contemplating the introduction of intraoperative echocardiography into their department.

The text discusses transoesophageal echocardiography techniques and includes sections on epicardial echocardiography in both paediatric (excellent) and adult patients (basics). Continuous as well as pulsed wave modes and colour-flow mapping are discussed.

The chapter on "Basics" is somewhat technical but represents a concise summary of the information that is necessary before considering the purchase of this expensive equipment. The chapters on *Detection of Intraoperative Myocardial Ischemia* and *Assessment of Left Ventricular Function with Two-dimensional Transesophageal Echocardiography* are both excellent but somewhat repetitive, as are the chapters on *Colour-flow Imaging and Evaluation of Valvular Dysfunction by Echocardiography*. The chapter on *Echocardiography During Surgery for Congenital Heart Disease* is excellent and demonstrates the role of echocardiography in the operating room in improving outcome. Education guidelines are addressed.

This book is highly recommended as an introduction to intraoperative echocardiography for the anaesthetist.

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Advances in Pain Research and Therapy, Volume 18: The Design of Analgesic Clinical Trials

Mitchell B. Max, Russell K. Portenoy, Eugene M. Laska (Eds.). Raven Press, New York, 1991. pp 751. \$122.00 U.S. ISBN 0-88167-736-1

Max, Portenoy, and Laska and their 60 contributors have assembled a masterful, 32-chapter resource book that should be of interest to anyone contemplating or involved in analgesic clinical trials. The first third of the book is devoted to issues primarily of interest to the researcher, focusing on basic topics, such as experimental pain models and single- and multiple-dose models. The second section is aimed at the clinical specialist and is devoted to the design of trials to meet specific clinical problems. This section includes chapters on individual disorders and specific interventions, as well as an excellent chapter on the special problems of paediatric analgesic trials. The third section covers a potpourri of issues, including new developments in pharmacokinetics, the American regulatory system, and non-pharmacological trials. Many of the chapters are followed by reactions by other authors. Some of these are commentaries that are several pages in length and function to amplify or supplement some aspect of the major paper. Others are short discussions of specific points. The editors have done well in choosing discussion points that are important and controversial. This book does not attempt to review basic issues in biostatistics or pain measurement, nor is it intended to guide therapeutics.

This is not a "how-to-do-it" book, but some chapters have practical gems. Max and Laska's chapter on single-dose analgesic comparisons is a model of sophisticated analysis and practical advice. McQuay provides an innovative discussion on N of 1 trials. The chapter by Forbes on the nurse-observer and the discussion that follows have practical tips on selecting and training the nurse-observer. Many of the authors also identify areas where further research is needed.

There are some weaknesses. There is no discussion of studies in certain special situations, such as the intensive care unit, the hospice, or in patients with AIDS or other terminal disease. A more comprehensive discussion of ethical issues and quality of life would also have been of interest. Another important issue that is overlooked is the assessment of cost-benefit in analgesic studies. Given the widespread need for evaluation of non-pharmacological methods, the single chapter on this topic, although useful, was not sufficient. There is hardly a mention of the challenges and problems of clinical trials with TENS, psychological interventions, biofeedback, and surgery.

Although this volume has limitations, it should be in the collection of analgesic researchers and anaesthesia departments. It cannot fail to stimulate and encourage both basic and clinical scientists and provide guidance to the clinician in interpreting the results of clinical analgesic trials.

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