Ambulatory anesthesia as a subtopic of the art and science of anesthesia is certainly not new. Advances in pharmacology and technology have made the performance of increasingly complex procedures on increasingly ill patients in an outpatient setting a safer reality. As a result, the anesthetist in the ambulatory or office-based setting is, in many ways, a specialist. It therefore becomes obvious that there is a need for references specific to anesthesia care in the ambulatory setting.

*Ambulatory Anesthesia* is one volume in a series titled, *The Requisites in Anesthesiology*, covering various specialties in anesthesia. The book consists of 14 chapters in a logical sequence. Chapter one reviews the history of ambulatory anesthesia and surgery. Subsequent chapters follow the progression of a patient through the surgical process from patient selection to preoperative evaluation, anesthetic techniques, postoperative complications, and discharge criteria. Specialty chapters dedicated to pediatric, geriatric, and office based and dental anesthesia are included. While the author acknowledges that a complete discussion of business management is outside the intended scope, there are brief chapters discussing facility accreditation and design.

The author states his hope is that *Ambulatory Anesthesia* will “teach the next generation of anesthesia practitioners” about the issues of anesthesia care in the ambulatory setting and serve as a reference and review for current practitioners. In some regard the author achieves this goal and for the current practitioner who considers the text as a review, sufficient to the number of pages written, they will not be disappointed.

Photographs and illustrations are not abundant but adequate for the depth of information. The use of tables and summarizing boxes are helpful for rapid reference. Scattered throughout are boxes titled, “Clinical Caveat” and “Current Controversy.” The caveats serve to emphasize the authors’ significant points, and the controversy boxes provoke thought in examining the gray zones of anesthesia science.

Certain chapters cover significant depth, such as postoperative nausea and vomiting. The chapter on regional anesthesia, analgesia, and postoperative pain management also is well written but, as is the case in other chapters, lacks an extensive and timely reference list, although “suggested reading” lists are provided for all chapters. Coverage of pharmacology and technique is limited; however, the intent of the text does not appear to be a thorough discussion of application but rather a summary of issues to consider while delivering ambulatory anesthesia care.

In summary, while *Ambulatory Anesthesia: The Requisites in Anesthesiology* does not provide an in-depth scientific discussion of the topics, it could well serve as a reasonable rapid reference for anesthesia practitioners as well as a general overview for those in training.

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