

BOOKS AND MULTIMEDIA OF INTEREST



A Practical Approach to Cardiac Anesthesia, third edition, by Frederick A. Hensley, Jr, MD; Donald E. Martin, MD; and Glenn P. Gravlee, MD. 733 pages, \$79.95. Philadelphia, Pa: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2002, ISBN 0-7817-3444-4.

In this latest edition of *A Practical Approach to Cardiac Anesthesia*, Frederick A. Hensley, Jr, MD, and Donald E. Martin, MD, are joined by Glenn P. Gravlee, MD, to update this extremely useful “handbook” of cardiac anesthesia. At 733 pages, the text can hardly be called a handbook, yet its small size makes it a portable addition to the clinician’s “locker library.” As with previous editions, the text provides excellent, current, and evidence-based information in an easy to read style. The outline format makes searching for specific information expedient and simple, a must for the clinician.

Congruous with earlier editions, *A Practical Approach to Cardiac Anesthesia* includes detailed information and techniques for evaluation of the cardiac patient from the preoperative evaluation through postoperative care. Chapters dedicated to the pharmacologic agents encountered when anesthetizing a patient for cardiac surgeries include both cardiovascular and induction agents. Each agent is discussed in detail with special attention to clinical uses and dosing techniques.

An entire chapter is dedicated to pain management techniques, with specific suggestions for the various forms of cardiothoracic surgeries encountered, both conventional as well as “off-pump” or “minimally invasive” procedures. Other chapters provide detailed technical information for procedures other than coronary artery revascularization including congenital heart disease, valvular heart disease, cardiac transplantation, rhythm management devices and catheter or surgical ablation surgeries, and cardiac surgical emergencies. Thoracic procedures, such as thoracic aneurysms and dissections and surgeries of the lungs and mediastinum, are each discussed in separate chapters. Not to be neglected, an entire chapter is dedicated to the management of coagulation both during and after cardiopulmonary bypass, including strategies to deal with heparin resistance and heparin-induced thrombocytopenia.

New to this edition are chapters dedicated to the use of transesophageal echocardiography and strategies for alternative approaches to cardiac surgery, with and without cardiopulmonary bypass. Other new features discuss current trends toward “fast track” recovery and the previously discussed pain management options for the various forms of cardiothoracic surgery. Discussions of adult and pediatric extracorporeal membrane oxygenation

contained in earlier editions were not included in this text because of the reduced incidence of the technique and the desire to retain “portability” of the text.

In summary, the latest edition of *A Practical Approach to Cardiac Anesthesia*, is an outstanding guide to the clinical aspects of the anesthetic evaluation, management, and postoperative care of the patient with cardiovascular or pulmonary disease. Concise and informative, it also is a useful reference for the anesthetic management of the patient with cardiac or pulmonary disease undergoing noncardiac surgery. The exceptional, receptor-based guide for cardiovascular agents is well worth the cost of the text alone; while the detailed discussion of specific surgical techniques provides the anesthetist with guidelines for anesthetic management and possible complications and their treatment. As a handbook for the care of patients with cardiovascular compromise, this text is superb; for the anesthetist regularly providing care to patients for cardiovascular surgery, it is almost essential.

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