

BOOKS AND MULTIMEDIA OF INTEREST



Atlas of Common Pain Syndromes, by Steven D. Waldman, MD, JD. 336 pages, \$81. Philadelphia, Pa: WB Saunders, 2003. ISBN: 0-7216-9211-7.

Steven Waldman, MD, JD, is a well-known author on the subject of pain. He has previously written books regarding the treatment of pain. This book, however, focuses on the diagnosis of painful conditions.

The book is well organized and easy to read. The conditions are grouped by sections according to different locations of the body, such as the head, shoulders, hands, chest wall, hips, and knees. Each syndrome is addressed separately in 3 to 6 pages with a short explanation of the medical problem. Some of the medical problems addressed are common and some are very rare. For example, common problems such as migraine headaches are addressed

along with uncommon conditions such as meralgia paresthetica.

Following the short explanation of the condition, signs and symptoms are listed. The author does not go into great detail in describing signs and symptoms; however, he addresses important information and avoids adding not-so-significant data.

The author then describes what type of testing is needed to make a diagnosis along with an explanation on how to make a differential diagnosis due to other medical conditions presenting in a similar fashion. Treatment options are explained along with a short statement on potential complications of the disease.

A unique feature is that each section ends with helpful clinical pearls for the clinician who is treating the syndrome. Although the clinical pearls are short in length, they have significant importance for the anes-

thesia provider treating the patient. To clarify the topic and make the descriptions more realistic, illustrations are also included in each section. An unusual addition to each syndrome is that the book also lists ICD codes that can be used for billing purposes.

A disadvantage to the book is the lack of information regarding the patient who needs surgical treatment. The type of anesthesia needed for the surgery is not addressed. This lack of information is surprising since the author is an anesthesiologist. Despite this deficiency, the book would still be a valuable reference source for anesthesia providers. It should be on every anesthesia provider's shelf, especially those who work in pain management.

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