

Book Reviews

Clinical Monitoring Practice – Second Edition

Gravenstein JS, Paulus DA. J.B. Lippincott, Philadelphia. 1987. \$44.50 (us)
ISBN 0-397-50737-2

Non-invasive and invasive monitoring during the peri-operative period has progressed in leaps and bounds over the past 15 years. The second edition of *Clinical Monitoring Practice* is an update of the 1982 first edition. In addition to the established anaesthetic monitors, it addresses many new systems that have appeared in the past five years. There are new chapters on evoked responses, alarms and computers, the automatic anaesthetic record and pulse oximetry. Despite many of the chapters being fairly technical, an excellent chapter is dedicated to basic physician monitoring of the patient without use of electronic gadgetry. Other excellent chapters are on non-invasive and invasive blood pressure measurement, gas monitoring, acid-base and blood gas measurement, intracranial pressure monitoring and the automatic anaesthetic record.

Several chapters fall short of my expectations. For example, chapters discussing vascular catheterization techniques should have had more higher quality illustrations – a picture is worth a thousand words! The chapter on electrocardiography introduces a more confusing terminology for the bipolar electrode systems while it fails to address leads for monitoring right ventricular ischaemia. The complications of the invasive monitoring techniques should have been more extensively addressed. In addition, the text fails to provide the monitoring enthusiast with up-to-date information in several areas of monitoring (i.e., pulse oximetry, neurophysiological monitoring, ST-segment trending). Despite this, I feel that the book has a major role as an introductory text for medical students, interns and residents in this very important area.

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Medical management of the surgical patient, 2nd Edition

Lubin MF, Walker HK, Smith RB (Eds). Butterworths, Stoughton MA. 1988. \$54.95 (us)

This multiauthored book, by the editors' admission, is intended "to be an aid to medical consultants" by providing insight on the impact of a multitude of medical problems and their management in the pre-, intra- and postoperative course of the surgical patient. To accomplish this the 707 pages are divided into two parts. Part One (481 pages) comprises 16 sections with 58 chapters devoted to system disorders and their surgical impact. Part Two (204 pages) comprises ten sections and 86 chapters. Within Part Two the majority of the common operations (by specialty) are discussed from the standpoint of the indications for the procedure, the usual postoperative course and the postoperative complications, both in hospital and after discharge.

This book is lucid and easy to read. This is likely due to the fact that the chapters are kept short and despite the multiauthored format there is a uniformity of presentation amongst the chapters. Brevity of chapters does not lead to encyclopedic knowledge. However, the important aspects are covered and the chapters are very well referenced. The well laid out Table of Contents and Index also add to the ease of use of this book. A paucity of illustrations does not significantly detract from this volume.

In the current medical milieu, where the surgical patient is so often beset by significant medical problems and the surgeon, internist and anaesthetist are often involved simultaneously in making decisions, this book represents a valuable forum to promote mutual understanding amongst those specialists. As such it is highly recommended and I feel inevitable that it will have a broad range of appeal to surgeons, internists and anaesthetists, both practicing and in training.

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