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Manual of Emergency Airway Management, 3rd Edition. By Ron M. Walls, M.D. and Michael F. Murphy, M.D. Philadelphia, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2008. Pages: 432. Price: \$59.95.

Dealing with the expectation of providing a secure airway in a routine setting such as the operating room can often be a challenge. However, maintaining the same level of skill and confidence in patients with presumed difficult airways or worse, the dreaded unexpected difficult airway, can be problematic. In settings outside the operating room, difficult airway management can be even more demanding.

The *Manual of Emergency Airway Management*, now in its third edition, is an excellent resource to better understand a stepwise approach to successfully provide airway management in a wide variety of emergent situations. The stated objective of the authors is to provide healthcare professionals such as internists, emergency department providers, intensivists, anesthesiologists, and first responders with a concise, reproducible, stepwise approach to airway management that is based on literature review and complemented by clinical expertise.

The authors have updated this third edition with simplified yet comprehensive airway algorithms. The pharmacology of the many induction and paralyzing agents that can be used in the emergency airway setting have been amended. Detailed, practical information regarding the technological advances that are beginning to revolutionize airway management has been greatly expanded. Finally, the section on prehospital emergency airway management has been broadened, as this is an area where the difficult airway may be more common.

The manual is extremely easy to read. Important ideas and themes are often emboldened in blue type. Each chapter has easy-to-read graphs, figures, tables, and photography. The book is coherently divided into seven broad sections, including Approach to the Airway, Difficult and Failed Airways, Pharmacology of Airway Management, Pediatric Airway Management, EMS Airway Management, Special Clinical Circumstances, and lastly, Mechanical Ventilation and Monitoring. Each chapter follows a logical sequence, beginning with an introduction, clinical challenges, approach to the airway, techniques, and often a Tips/Pearls section. However, what sets this manual apart may be the Evidence section at the end of each chapter. The authors provide updated literature detailing the reasoning behind some of the more controversial recommendations. The authors do not shy away from some potentially debatable topics and long-held beliefs, such as the recommendation to not routinely use atropine before succinylcholine in the pediatric population.

There are several chapters of particular interest to the anesthesiologist. The chapter on video laryngoscopy provides detailed information on many of the current commercially available devices. The authors detail the use of each video laryngoscope with a summation of the positives and the negatives for each. Helpful information on current literature regarding video laryngoscopy is provided in the Evidence section. The section on pediatric airway management spans only three chapters, but provides a concise yet relatively all-inclusive review of techniques available to better ensure successful airway management in this population. This section also offers useful new and updated information regarding the pediatric difficult airway.

Overall, this manual hits its intended mark by providing an easy-to-read, succinct, yet comprehensive approach to the patient in need of emergency airway management for all healthcare providers, be it an anesthesiologist, internist, intensivist, hospitalist, emergency department physician, or emergency medical service first responder.

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(Accepted for publication March 10, 2009.)

Peripheral Nerve Blocks: A Color Atlas, 3rd Edition. By Jacques E. Chelly, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A. Philadelphia, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2009. Pages: 496. Price: \$110.00.

Regional anesthetic techniques have long been employed as a means of providing operative, postoperative, and chronic analgesia. They have also been used as adjuncts to general anesthesia to reduce anesthetic requirements, which may be especially useful in patients with underlying disorders such as coronary artery disease. More recently, evidence indicating potential benefits in decreasing the incidence of certain postoperative complications with the use of regional anesthesia has contributed to a renewed interest in these techniques. The development of safer local anesthetic agents, the use of ultrasound guidance, and the availability of continuous block techniques have also played a role in the increasing application of regional anesthesia. As the scope of regional anesthetic practice continues to expand, references that incorporate information on new techniques and applications of regional anesthesia are needed to keep the practitioner up-to-date.

In this regard, *Peripheral Nerve Blocks: A Color Atlas, Third Edition*, edited by Jacques Chelly, provides well-organized and updated information encompassing current regional anesthetic practices. It is suitable for the novice student of anesthesia as well as for the experienced anesthesiologist. The book is divided into sections that cover general topics such as equipment and medications used in regional anesthesia, single-shot and continuous nerve block techniques specific to body regions, ultrasound guidance for peripheral nerve blocks, the use of regional anesthetic techniques in the pediatric population, and even a section that covers common regional block techniques used in a pain management practice.

The author provides a concise and easy-to-follow guide for block performance. Block technique descriptions are accompanied by a variety of anatomic illustrations and photographs that demonstrate needle placement and landmarks used in performance of the block. Block techniques that can be accomplished by numerous anatomic approaches are well covered in distinct sections. Each description of a block technique begins with a summary of clinical indications, patient positioning, needle size and type, volume of local anesthetic to be administered, anatomic landmarks, approach and technique, block contraindications and side effects, and helpful technical tips. In addition, this reference is linked to an interactive Web site that provides access to the entire content of the book online, including a fully searchable and downloadable image bank. This provides the purchaser with ready remote access to the material when a hard copy of the text is not immediately available.

Beyond the sections describing single-shot and continuous peripheral nerve block techniques, there are chapters dedicated to nerve mapping techniques and the performance of ultrasound guided regional anesthetic techniques, which have become more widely used over the past decade. Both of these modalities are noninvasive and can facilitate nerve localization before needle insertion. The nerve mapping chapter includes a good discussion of the physical principles involved in nerve stimulation such as electrical pulse frequency, current amplitude, electrical pulse duration, and tissue electrical impedance, which play important roles in nerve mapping and localization. Likewise, the section on ultrasonography for peripheral nerve block guidance includes a good description of how various tissue properties may influence the quality of the images, as well as how different types of tissue (such as nerves and vessels) may be distinguished from one another when using ultrasound. Each chapter dedicated to the performance of a specific ultrasound-guided block includes images of anatomic cross sections paired with ultrasound images for anatomic reference. The comprehensive section on pediatric peripheral nerve blocks also includes a discussion on the use of nerve mapping and