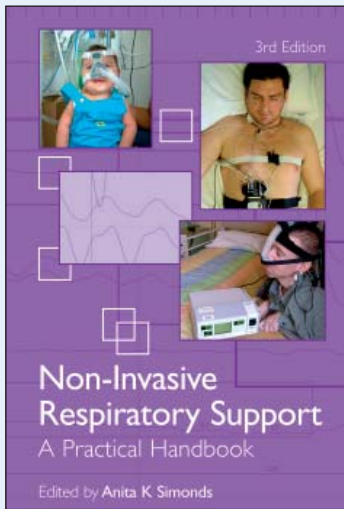


Non-Invasive Respiratory Support: A Practical Handbook (3rd edn)

Edited by Anita K Simonds
 Hodder Arnold 2007
 Price £34.99. Pp 370
 ISBN 978 0 340 92560 7

This book is designed to advise respiratory physicians, intensivists, anaesthetists, physiotherapists and anyone else needing to understand the up-to-date management of both acute and chronic respiratory failure.

Since the last edition, this book has been updated to include information on the use of non-invasive ventilation in the palliation of end-stage respiratory diseases, for example



motor neurone disease. It begins with a brief overview of the history of non-invasive ventilation, then moves on in a logical progression to discuss equipment, how to set up a non-invasive ventilation service and then covers specific clinical situations. These start with the acute setting,

including exacerbations of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, hypoxaemic respiratory failure and neuromuscular diseases. There is a useful chapter on problem solving, describing common problems, e.g. air leaks, each with suggested action plans.

Using non-invasive ventilation in the emergency department and on intensive care is then covered, including a discus-

sion of post-extubation problems, and a chapter on weaning from non-invasive ventilation.

There is detailed information on long-term ventilation for a variety of conditions. There are sections on patient selection, outcome and practical measures for discharge planning. There is an interesting discussion of the legal and ethical aspects at the end of the book.

The chapters are concise and clear, based on recent research, with full references at the end of each section. Where possible, diagrams and pictures have been included, which I found helpful. Particularly useful for junior doctors are flow-charts of management plans and boxes of 'tips' found frequently.

Full of hands-on advice, this book is sub-titled 'a practical handbook', and it is just that.

Claire Wenham, Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust

Anaesthesia for the Overweight Patient

Mark Bellamy, Michel Struys
 Oxford University Press 2007
 Price £5.99. Pp 108
 ISBN 978 0 19 923395 3

Obesity is a growth industry. There are daily media stories warning us about the forthcoming obesity epidemic bearing down on us like the doomsday asteroid. It is therefore refreshing to come across such a slim-line and sensible book about obesity and anaesthesia.

At just 108 pages this pocket-sized book aims to give the general anaesthetist an overview of the physiology, pharmacology and co-morbidities associated with obesity and thus allow them to base their anaesthetic care on sound principles. It has the added pleasure of allowing one to baffle the surgeons from behind the drapes with such nuggets as 'myocardial fat correlates positively with waist-to-hip ratio'.

Later sections concentrate on the practical conduct of anaesthesia including pre-operative assessment, airway assessment and recovery. Some useful practical tips are included, but the only photo is spoiled by an overzealous attempt to black out the patient's identity and I feel that some of the reproductions of graphical data are wasted space. There are useful bullet points at the start of each section and a short list

of relevant references after each of the eleven short chapters.

The final chapter concentrates on the detail of bariatric surgery. Increasing numbers of patients are presenting for weight-loss surgery and anaesthetists will inevitably come in to contact with those who have undergone previous procedures, making this a valuable section. This book would be a useful buy for anaesthetic trainees who need to learn a logical approach to obesity. Anaesthetic consultants would also find it useful if they need to remind themselves why anaesthesia for the morbidly obese is a weighty issue.

Mark Pyke, Southmead Hospital, Bristol

Strategies for Healthcare Education: how to teach in the 21st century

Edited by Jan Woodhouse
 Radcliffe Press 2006
 Price £24.95. Pp 168
 ISBN 978 18461 9006 3

This book is straightforward to read, while still remaining sophisticated. The authors are down-to-earth and realistic and the text is interspersed with cartoons.

Methods of learning have changed in recent years from didactic lecturing to problem-based learning and group work. It is often said that you can learn from

each other in groups. If that is the case, why do you need a teacher? The book defines a 'facilitator' as someone who enables students to learn from each other, and says that it is no opportunity to sit back and relax. Problem-based learning is often scornfully referred to in real life as 'teach yourself medicine'. Here, the perspective is more from a nursing point of view.

One chapter is imaginatively called, 'The "dreaded" lecture', which is guaranteed to capture attention. The creative arts are explored, and the author comments on the fact that such methods may be seen as eccentric and not fitting in with traditional methods such as lecturing. Transactional analysis is mentioned, but with a different set of parties – the victim, persecutor, rescuer rather than parent, child, adult.

There are some unfortunate errors and inconsistencies that spoil an otherwise good book. The sadly common radiographer/radiologist transposition crops up, as does both Master's and Masters when referring to degrees.

However, this is a good and inclusive critical review of different types of teaching, based on the authors' experiences and the existing literature, and I would recommend it highly.

Rachel Hooke, Airedale NHS Trust, Keighley, West Yorkshire