

### Accident and Emergency Medicine: MCQs

Amy Herlihy  
RSM Press 2006  
Price £19.95. Pp 140  
ISBN 1853156949

Now emergency medicine is really coming into its own as a specialty, and having its own dedicated examinations (MCEM), a hole has appeared in the market. MCQs are used as the initial



filtering exam (part A), and this text with over 400 MCQs aims to address this audience.

Unfortunately the format of the MCQs offered in the text do not match the exam (the exam consists of four stems, and the text offers five), and the author has chosen not to group the topics in accordance with the MCEM syllabus. There is also quite a lot of pathology

covered, whereas the part A exam concerns itself mostly with the basic sciences. These facts aside, the questions are pitched largely at an appropriate level, and there is some brief discussion of more complex answers.

This book might not prepare candidates for the style of their forthcoming examinations, but it will certainly stretch them and give them an idea of the depth of knowledge they need to have in order to pass.

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### Flexible Working and Training for Doctors and Dentists: A Practical Guide

Edited by Anne Hastie  
Radcliffe 2006  
Price £24.95. Pp 208  
ISBN 1846190258

This book is a welcome newcomer, is easy to read and at £24.95 represents good value for money. Such a book has been long overdue and I am not aware of anything similar on the market. It has a lot of useful information not only for those who work or train flexibly but also for 'regular full-timers'. A range of career options are reviewed. Useful tips are included such as the time involved in having a portfolio career usually adds up to more than one job.

The book has extensive coverage of options for general practice. Much useful information for hospital trainees and career grade practitioners is concealed in chapters labelled as general practice and more generic chapters relating to primary and secondary care would have been welcome.

Although every effort has been made to keep the book as up to date as possible changes have occurred and the hospital and GP Flexible Careers Scheme with Central funding have ceased to exist from 31 December 2005 onwards. There is too much emphasis on flexible workers/trainees being female and GP being the natural choice. A more rounded careers perspective would be welcome in a second edition. However, I would recommend this book for anyone who is at a careers crossroads and all who are educational supervisors as it furthers understanding of the range of working options available.

*Helen Goodyear, West Midlands Deanery, Birmingham*

### Fibrinolytic and Antithrombotic Therapy (2nd edn)

Richard C Becker, Frederick A Spencer  
Oxford University Press 2006  
Price £26.99. Pp 406  
ISBN 0-19-515564-5

In reviewing this book we tried to see if we could use this in our everyday clinical practice. The book has 371 pages not including appendices and is divided into eight parts.

Part I (fundamental scientific principles) gave an excellent historical background for the understanding of the pathophysiology of thrombotic disorders. The diagrams were clear and easy to understand. The content was very detailed and provides a good source for reference. Chapter 5 was particularly relevant to cardiac clinical practice.

Part II, on fibrinolytics and platelet antagonists, provided a concise background to the understanding of the pharmacology of the commonest agents used in acute coronary syndromes with a good summary of the trial evidence. This section also provided a good summary of the landmark trials in antiplatelet and fibrinolytic agents.

The third part on anticoagulants was a well written, relatively short chapter on warfarin, heparins and novel agents.

Part IV, on the management of arterial thrombotic disorders, is the most relevant to clinical cardiologists, focusing mainly on acute coronary syndromes. It gave an appropriate summary of the evidence. Missing in the evidence was ASSENT III and ASSENT III plus and the need for caution with enoxaparin with fibrinolytics in the underweight, those over 75 years of age and especially females. The section on

electrocardiographic features is rather short but is not the focus of attention of this book. The comment on Sgarbossa criteria for left bundle-branch block should include comments that in subsequent testing of the criteria, it remains suboptimal. Excellent recommendations are given at the end of chapter 18. Chapter 19 is well written and concise. Chapter 20 on atrial fibrillation and valvular heart disease contains important information for clinicians and initiating warfarin therapy together with target levels. Chapter 21 focuses on plaque healing therapies and statins and is only 2 pages long. Again, as with the comment on electrocardiographic changes, we feel this section is not in keeping with the focus of the book and could have been omitted.

Part V which looks at the management of venous thrombotic disorders is well written with clear recommendations, as is part VI. This short section entitled genomics, proteomics and suspected thrombophilia provides important information on how to investigate abnormal clotting disorders particularly thrombophilia. Part VII is concise and includes a valuable section on how to set up monitoring clinics.

The final part on complications of treatment and their management focuses on managing haemorrhagic complications, recognizing heparin-induced thrombocytopenia and bleeding with fibrinolytics. Again, we feel data from ASSENT III should have been included particularly with regard to intracranial haemorrhage.

On the whole this is a well-written book which will be useful for practising physicians.

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