

Patient Care in Cardiac Surgery

Chris Aps

Quay Books 2007

Price £24.99. Pp 178

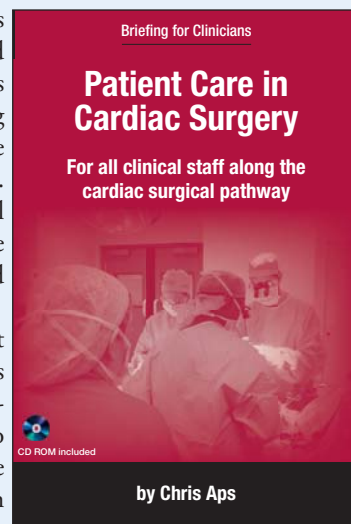
ISBN 978 1 85642 335 9

An operating theatre can be an intimidating place, particularly one in which cardiac surgery is being performed. Several groups of individuals (surgeons, anaesthetists, nurses, perfusionists) have to work together in a highly coordinated and systematic manner in order for an operation to proceed smoothly and safely. For the uninitiated, this can be an overwhelming experience.

Dr Aps is a cardiac anaesthetist with an interest in flying aeroplanes. He has combined both his clinical experience with the safety culture of the aviation industry to provide a 'briefing' on patient management during cardiac surgery. Originally, this was intended for trainee anaesthetists

and the style in which it is written is easy to read and conversational, almost as though you are standing next to the author in the operating theatre. However, this book will clearly be of use to trainee surgeons and other allied staff.

Virtually every aspect of a heart operation is covered, from the preoperative visit through to transfer to the intensive care unit. The focus is on the non-surgical aspects, although there is a chapter for non-surgeons which nicely summarizes the different surgical procedures. The chapter progression is very logical and the text is broken up by dialogue boxes, warnings



and photographs. An accompanying interactive CD-ROM helps to illustrate subjects such as intra-aortic balloon devices.

Criticisms are minor. Some of the detail is necessarily based on practice at Dr Aps' institution since not everything in medicine can be evidence based. The book would also benefit from an index and some key references.

Nevertheless, this book is highly recommended to

anybody new to cardiac anaesthesia or surgery. I just wish it had been available when I started out.

Tim Batchelor, St. James's University Hospital, Leeds

Oxford Specialist Handbook of Paediatric Neurology

Rob Forsyth, Richard Newton

Oxford University Press 2007

Price £34.95. Pp 557

ISBN 978 0 19 856939 8

This specialist book is excellent and would be an asset to specialist registrars in paediatric neurology and also very helpful for general paediatric consultants and specialist registrars in general paediatrics. It is comprehensive and has some excellent sections; in particular, the 'real world examination sequences' and 'consults with other services' were very helpful.

There is a good list of symptoms children can present with and the best approach to those problems. The drugs section is also very useful. Rather than giving extremely long lists of possible side effects, contraindications and so forth, some of which are extremely rare, the section points out the important side effects and interactions that patients and families need to know about. There is also a good section on emergencies with bullet points that are easy to follow.

In the treatment of specific conditions, it would have been helpful if there would have been a more detailed discussion of the use of triptans in headaches, which are an extremely common problem for general paediatricians and paediatric neurologists alike. Certain sections such as the one on

idiopathic intercranial hypertension could have been more detailed and certainly we believe that follow up would be much more frequent than annual. It would have been helpful if the interactions of anti-epileptic medication section at the end of the pharmacopoeia had been in tabular form rather than plain text. There are also occasional spelling mistakes and occasional omission of words, which will doubtless be corrected in any future reprints. Overall, this is a welcome addition to the field of paediatric neurology, which we thoroughly recommend.

R Samanta, J Raine, Whittington Hospital, London

Vulvovaginal Infections

William J Ledger, Steven S Witkin

Manson Publishing 2007

Price £40.00. Pp 128

ISBN 978 1 84076 069 9

The authors of this book, William Ledger, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and Steven Witkin, Professor of Immunology, draw on more than two decades of experience running a referral research vulvovaginal clinic at Cornell University. The title belies its contents which encompass a much wider range of conditions than infections alone, for example, vulvodinia, allergic vulvovaginitis, dermatological disorders and menopausal vulvovaginitis are also covered.

Ledger and Witkin argue against the common practice of treating women on the basis of their symptoms alone and, with the aid of numerous colour photographs of both clinical and microscopic appearances, describe how accurate diagnoses may be made. It is unfortunate that several of the clinical photographs appear not to have survived the reproduction process in focus. For each specific condition the relevant microbiology and immunology are first discussed, followed by a description of the methods of diagnosis, suggestions for treatment and follow up.

The style of writing is informal and easy to read and the contents of each chapter are referenced for further information. Unreferenced statements are acknowledged as the authors' opinions based on their clinical experience. I shall not be able to view the microscopic appearance of *Candida* in the same light again having read the likening of the buds to 'Popeye's biceps!' I particularly enjoyed the immunology sections which were relevant and clearly explained.

Primarily aimed at gynaecologists working in America, this book would also be useful to practitioners in genitourinary medicine, accident and emergency, microbiology and general practice among others, in the UK and Europe.

Christine M Bates, Royal Liverpool University Hospital, Liverpool