

Oxford Specialist Handbooks in Cardiology: Pacemakers and ICDs

Edited by Jonathan Timperley, Paul Leeson, Andrew R J Mitchell, Timothy Betts

Oxford University Press 2007

Price £34.95. Pp 365

ISBN 978 0 19 857132 2

This is the 26th addition to Oxford University Press' successful series of handbooks for hospital specialists. It neatly lays out device terminology, anatomy of the conduction system and those systemic required veins for percutaneous access.

The authors use a systematic approach to describe devices. Included is a brief history, indications for use of the various

devices associated with heart rhythm (pacemakers, dual chamber and biventricular pacing, loop recorders and implantable cardioverter defibrillators), details of their implantation, deployment and follow up. It is appropriately illustrated with line diagrams, electrocardiograms and reproduced X-rays.

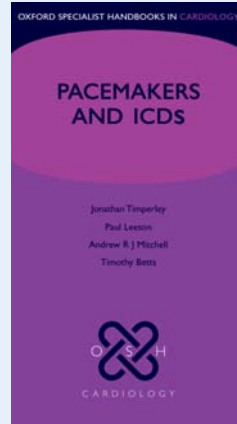
A section on troubleshooting the most common problems that may be associated with each device is very useful. Evidence for the placement of devices is given with further information offered through appropriate websites. Professor John Camm writes the foreword so elegantly recommend-

ing this book, so doing my reviewing job for me!

The book is designed for electrophysiologists but will reach a wider readership as it informs beyond guiding the specialist precisely how to place the chosen device.

The book is a good deal at the recommended price of £34.95. It would have fitted well into the pocket of a white coat if we were still permitted to wear them. However, it does slip into the inner pocket of a jacket or the pocket of a scrub suit top with ease. Buy it, enjoy it and be guided well by it.

Stephen Large, Papworth Hospital, Cambridge



Plastic Surgery Survival Guide to Trauma

Amir Nakhdejvani, Richard Baker,

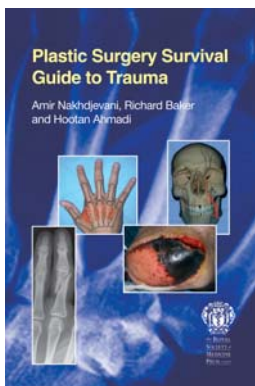
Hootan Ahmadi

RSM Press 2007

Price £24.95. Pp 150

ISBN 978 1 85315 770 7

One of the most challenging aspects of orthopaedic and plastic surgery is the complex management of hand trauma. This concise, pocket-sized book is an excellent introduction in the management of these injuries commonly seen in the emergency department. The early chapters concentrate on the anatomy of the hand and forearm with clear and accurate diagrams and detailed tables. Understanding the anatomy is fundamental in making decisions on patients with hand trauma and the concise description found in this text is an invaluable resource in revision of this often-difficult topic. The use of coloured photographs and X-rays is one of the book's major strengths as



are the excellent, comprehensive chapters on flexor tendon infections, hand fractures and anaesthetic techniques.

As an orthopaedic trainee I found one of the most useful sections of the

book was the chapter on wound dressings, which contains a list of the common dressing types including specific ointments and creams used, with their clinical indications. Choosing the correct dressing can help ensure a successful cosmetic result which in turn may improve restoration of function and this is essential reading.

I would recommend this book to any medical student or surgical trainee as it provides concise and succinct details on the management of the common hand trauma cases.

Thomas Kurien, Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham

Opioids in Non-Cancer Pain

Cathy Stannard, Michael Coupe,

Tony Pickering

Oxford University Press 2007

Price £5.99. Pp 118

ISBN 978 0 191923123 2

This is a handy pocket-sized book (118 pages) for the busy non-specialist, and a useful refresher for those working in the field of pain. It covers all of the relevant information in eleven chapters. It starts with the basic science of opioids (chapters 1 and 2), then covers general principles of opioid prescribing (chapters 3–6), clinical use in specific pain conditions – such as back pain, osteoarthritis and neuropathic pain (chapters 7–9), and ends on practical issues of prescribing opioids for non-cancer pain and the issues of drug misuse (chapters 10 and 11).

General comments are that more use could have been made of figures (for sections on neuroimaging (chapter 2) and endocrine effects (chapter 4)) and tables (for distinguishing the difference between opioid-induced hyperalgesia and tolerance (chapter 5), and presenting evidence-based medicine – chapters 7–9), which often impart more information more quickly to a busy clinician. I like the key points section at the beginning of each chapter, but references are simply listed at the end of each chapter and not cited within the text, even when specific articles are mentioned, for example review articles of the efficacy in specific types of pain in chapters 7–9.

Specific comments would be to emphasize more the clinical relevance of cytochrome P450 CYP2D6 variants and codeine and tramadol metabolism (chapter 1), and expand on opioid-induced hyperalgesia with reference to the theory of excitatory and inhibitory opioid receptors, and its treatment with ultra-low doses of naloxone (chapter 5). There is useful advice regarding driving (and a good Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency website reference – chapter 4). Chapter 10 starts with a highly relevant quote, and follows on with very useful tips on patient selection, the opioid trial and choice of drug.

All in all, this book is a very useful companion to those working with opioids in non-cancer pain, and is also great value for money at £5.99.

Michael Serpell, Gartnavel General Hospital, Glasgow