

Safe Sedation For All Practitioners: A Practical Guide

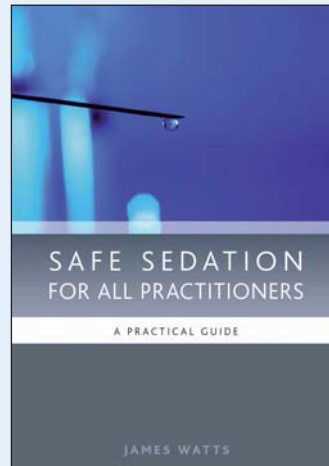
James Watts
 Radcliffe Publishing Ltd 2008
 Price £21.95. Pp 186
 ISBN 978 1 84619 220 3

This book aims to provide a firm basis on which both the trainee and practicing sedationist can develop their practice. The first six chapters cover the basics of sedation by introducing the subject and then concentrating on training, patient assessment, safety, drugs and the medicolegal aspects. These chapters put sedation in context with anaesthesia and repeatedly spell out the importance of safety within sedation.

The subsequent chapters describe sedative techniques in various settings, namely: paediatrics, the elderly, dental practice, radiology, critical care, palliative care and

other miscellaneous procedures. These chapters outline the particular needs and potential pitfalls of sedation within each setting. Each area is covered in detail using a structured approach. The medicolegal aspects of consent and end-of-life issues are particularly well covered.

The text is clearly written and the use of tables, clinical cases, bulleted learning points and a short summary makes the key information within each chapter easy to find. Each chapter is also accompanied by a full reference list including web-links and guidelines.



Overall this book is an excellent overview of the safety issues within the practice of sedation. The use of multiple clinical examples of poor practice is a very effective way of reinforcing the text. However, it would have added more balance to the text if an equal number of examples of excellent clinical practice were given. The reader would then have been left

with more of an idea of 'what to do' rather than 'what not to do', as is currently the case.

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Oxford Handbook of Clinical Diagnosis (2nd edn)

Huw Llewelyn, Hock Aun Ang, Keir Lewis, Anees Al-Abdullah
 Oxford University Press 2009
 Price £24.95. Pp 800
 ISBN 978 0 19 923296 3

This is the second edition of *Clinical Diagnosis*, from the Oxford Handbook range. It provides lists of differential diagnoses for common and less common symptoms and signs, along with brief notes on associated clinical features and suggestions for investigations and management. It covers medical, surgical, gynaecological and psychiatric fields, taking a systems-orientated approach, but obstetrics and paediatrics are not included.

Each subject is given from a few lines up to a double-page spread, keeping the information concise and focussed on the most salient facts. Many areas are covered in detail, but a few are somewhat brief. There are also chapters devoted to the commonest causes of abnormal blood tests and chest X-rays.

The book opens with a chapter on processes of reasoning used to make diagnoses, the 'diagnostic sieve' and discussing how to communicate about diagnosis with patients. This is followed by a chapter on history taking and interpretation, with brief notes on physical examination. The appendix takes the reader through the

somewhat daunting mathematical basis of evidence-based diagnosis.

Clinical Diagnosis successfully adheres clearly to the remit of its title. Readers studying for postgraduate exams would probably find it somewhat superficial. However, it is pitched perfectly for the student studying for undergraduate clinical exams and for the general practice specialist training knowledge test. It would also serve as a helpful aide memoir for those in primary care and accident and emergency and for doctors dealing with a patient presenting with a problem outside their speciality.

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Oxford Specialist Handbook of Urological Surgery

John Reynard, Stephen Mark, Kevin Turner, Noel Armenakas, Mark Feneley and Mark Sullivan
 Oxford University Press 2008
 Price £42.50. Pp 835
 ISBN 978 0 19 929942 3

The Oxford Specialist Handbook series continues to enlarge, to encompass more specialties and this book attempts to provide a unique angle, by concentrating on surgical aspects of urology. The chapters have been based on 'conditions' and this allows the reader to glance at the book, as needed, for example while waiting to perform a procedure in theatre.

Junior doctors in urology will find all the surgical tips useful, and even senior trainees will learn several 'tricks of the trade' from this book, such as how to find the midline rectus sheath, when performing laparotomy – a simple, yet poorly taught part of a very common procedure.

In addition, registrars revising and preparing for the FRCS(Urol) examination will also gain useful exam tips, and with several chapters, such as pelvi-uteretic junction obstruction, being well referenced (41 key references), they will be able to attend the exam loaded with useful evidence-based information.

The illustrations are pretty good, generally, with several sources (other books) being used to incorporate and demonstrate manoeuvres and techniques. However, several diagrams were missing or referenced incorrectly, such as the examples of a Mauermayers stone punch and the description of artificial urinary sphincter insertion. The text, on the whole, is lengthy. One reason for this is the inclusion of several pages from the successful *Oxford Handbook of Urology*. This may be justified, to provide an overall completeness to this book.

On the whole, the authors have achieved their objectives and aims in publishing this book, and I would recommend it to all urology units.

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