

Management of Breast Cancer in Older Women

Edited by Malcolm WR Reed,
Riccardo A Audisio
Springer 2010

Price £126.00. Pp 413
ISBN 978 1 84800 264 7

The editors of this book, Reed and Riccardo, have an established research and clinical interest in management of older women with breast cancer and have assembled a multidisciplinary panel of experts who contributed to various chapters in their field of expertise.

The editors justify the need for such a book by alluding to the fact that over 50% of patients diagnosed with breast cancer are over the age of 70 years and extension of the screening programme to older women will increase the incidence by a



further 20% within the next 10 years. The book aims to provide readers with the best available evidence in this field.

The book is divided in four sections. Part I deals with the background and epidemiology, which thoroughly covers this topic with up to date referencing.

Part II covers the special aspects of overall and specific management of these patients, including a practical miniguide to comprehensive geriatric assessment which I found very useful. The other important topic is the impact of physiological effects of aging on pharmacology of drugs used for the treatment. Other topics covered include the impact of hormone replacement therapy on breast cancer as well as the concept of

multidisciplinary clinics for elderly patients with breast cancer.

Part III covers the therapeutic aspects of breast cancer treatment including screening, primary endocrine therapy and the new concept of perioperative radiotherapy. Breast reconstruction and adjuvant therapies are discussed comprehensively as is the management of advanced disease. Finally, part IV covers the psychosocial aspects of management of elderly breast cancer patients.

This is a very well-written book and the editors and contributors have done justice to this topic. This book will be a valuable resource for clinicians and other health-care professionals who deal with elderly patients with breast cancer.

Mohammed Keshtgar, Royal Free Hospital, London

Ultrasound Guidance in Regional Anaesthesia: Principles and practical implementation (2nd edn)

Peter Marhofer
Oxford University Press 2010
Price £39.95. Pp 236
ISBN 978 019 958735 3

Peter Marhofer has revised and expanded the original text of this book, published in 2008. No longer pocket sized, this edition is still small enough to be used as a day to day aide memoire and will be invaluable to trainees and experts alike. This is a rapidly evolving subspecialty of anaesthesia and the author's experience and extensive publications places him at the forefront of the field. This is attested to by the forewords provided by other renowned experts.

The main improvement from the first edition is the use of photographs of anatomical cross-sections juxtaposed with ultrasound images of those areas from everyday practice. This is particularly well done in the section on upper limb blocks with examples of anatomical variations that may be found in clinical practice. The anatomy sections are fit for purpose, but are not detailed enough to be the sole source of information.

New sections include chapters on the use of regional anaesthesia in children, neuraxial blocks, innervations of major joints, technical and organization prerequisites for ultrasound-guided blocks and the current recommendations on the use

of lipid rescue to treat local anaesthetic toxicity. Other chapters have been revised to good effect, the addition of a summary table of local anaesthetic volume requirements based on recent clinical studies in chapter 2 being a good example of this.

The text is easier to navigate than the first edition thanks to more user-friendly content pages. The layout is very clear overall and a substantial improvement.

This is well worth buying as a quick reference guide to regional anaesthetic techniques. Although written about a subspecialty of anaesthesia which is developing rapidly, this book will still be useful in decades to come to help ensure the right dose of the right drug is given at the right place.
Khalid Syeed, UCL Hospital, London

Henry Power of Halifax: A Seventeenth Century Physician and Scientist

JT Hughes
Rimes House 2010
Price £20.00. Pp 120
ISBN 978 1 874317 04 3

Henry Power is unfamiliar to most doctors with an interest in medical history. Only his *Experimental Philosophy* was published (1664) and just a few copies of this remain. A revised edition from 1966 is out of print. In 2009, *Experimental Philosophy* was republished and, together with this biography, brings our attention to this hitherto little known doctor and scientist.

Henry Power was born in 1626 in Annersley, Yorkshire, where his father was a prosperous merchant. Sir Thomas Browne, author of *Religio Medici*, was a family friend and directed Henry to a medical career.

At the age of 15 years, Power entered Christ's College, Cambridge, spending 7 years in the arts faculty and then studying medicine under the distinguished physician, Francis Glisson. Power obtained his MD in 1654, returned to Halifax and created a successful and prosperous practice.

Power was a modern physician, using the texts of Harvey, Willis, Highmore and Browne, as well as the classical writings of Galen and Aristotle. After studying Harvey's *De Motu Cordis*, Power undertook extensive human and animal experiments to corroborate Harvey's thesis. He had telescopes and compound microscopes and in *Experimental Philosophy* he describes that circulation of the blood occurs in insects, slugs and the lamprey. Sadly, Power died in 1668. Had he lived longer and published more, there is little doubt that his fame would have been greater.

Dr Hughes, a distinguished neuropathologist, well known for his studies in medical history, is to be congratulated on this interesting, deeply researched and beautifully illustrated book on Henry Power, to accompany the new edition of Power's *Experimental Philosophy*.

Harold Ellis, Guy's, King's and St Thomas' Hospital, London