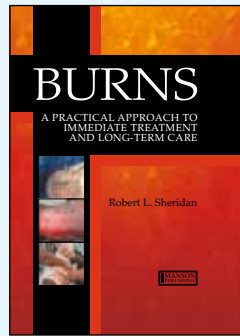


Burns: A practical approach to immediate treatment and long-term care

Robert L Sheridan
Manson Publishing 2012
Price £39.95. Pp 128
ISBN 978 1 84076 133 7

This is an outstanding book, written by a surgeon with renowned experience in the management of burns injuries and surgical critical care. It is full of excellent quality colour photographs and covers a broad variety of topics, including basic physiology, principles of resuscitation of patients with acute burns injury (including airway assessment and man-



agement, and the rationales and criticisms for different fluid regimens), dressings, skin substitutes, surgical management and postoperative care. It provides a scientific knowledge base alongside a practical approach to looking after burns patients, including useful tips and advice based on the author's extensive experience. Summary tables are concise and key references are highlighted.

A unique aspect of this book is that in each section the author considers the difficulties inherent in providing burns care in resource-challenged settings, suggesting 'austere alternatives' for when a gold standard of treatment is

not readily available. This is both extremely useful and fascinating to read, and also highlights the extent of recent innovations and advances in burns care. The boxes discussing the background and history of current practices (e.g. development of the Advanced Trauma Life Support concept) also make interesting reading and facilitate understanding.

This book would contribute admirably to the training and reference collections of health-care staff working in emergency departments, multidisciplinary burns team (including plastic surgical trainees), and students with an interest in learning more about this area of medicine. It is wholeheartedly recommended.

Kana Miyagi, Pinderfields General Hospital, Yorkshire

Rheumatology and the Kidney (2nd edn)

Edited by Dwomoa Adu, Paul Emery and Michael Madaio
Oxford University Press 2012
Price £49.99. Pp 466
ISBN 978 0 19 957965 5

Rheumatology and the Kidney provides a concise and up-to-date overview of immune-mediated disease as it relates to nephrology and rheumatology. In 32 chapters, each written by internationally recognized experts in the field, it covers lupus, vasculitis, amyloidosis and viral-associated disease. There are also chapters on useful topics such as analgesic nephropathy, interstitial nephritis and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug nephrotoxicity. Each chapter is short and accessible with a set of take-home points at the end and its own set of references.

The overall emphasis is on a current clinical overview regarding diagnosis and management, with relevant literature, and a strong bridge to mechanisms of pathogenesis, so the book is particularly suited to those interested in immunology and the underlying mechanisms of disease.

I found aspects such as a summary of the different clinical scoring systems for lupus and a detailed explanation of the International Society of Nephrology/Renal Pathology Society 2003 classification for lupus nephritis especially useful. The section on the pathogenesis of lupus nephritis is beautifully written with an emphasis on

the immunopathological basis of treatment and the use of biological agents, and there is an excellent overview on clinical management. However, the chapter on complement in lupus put too much emphasis on basic science. Conversely the chapter on renal complications in HIV was short and would have been improved with more focus on pathogenesis and the inclusion of HIV-related tubular as well as glomerular disease.

It is helpful to have often-neglected topics such as interstitial nephritis covered so well. Other topics such as clinical scoring systems for vasculitis are probably of greatest interest to those doing specialist clinics or involved in research.

Overall this is an excellent aid to anyone with an interest in the subject and functions as a handy and current reference guide.

Sally Hamour, Imperial College London, London

Anaesthesia for Emergency Care

Edited by Jerry Nolan and Jasmeet Soar
Oxford University Press 2012
Price £34.99. Pp 432
ISBN 978 0 19 958897 8

Anaesthesia for Emergency Care is a new book in the Oxford Specialist Handbook series, aiming to provide guidance for emergency procedures likely to be encountered by the on-call anaesthetist. It is intended as a portable, easy access reference resource for the wide range of anaesthetic emergencies that may be encountered, and as such is set out in an intuitive

sequence starting with general principles then moving through the different categories of emergency patients.

From trauma and critical illness the guide moves through specific surgical specialty emergencies, to end with anaesthetic emergencies and resuscitation. Particularly useful are areas sometimes missing from other books, including anaesthesia for the radiology suite, the cardiac catheter lab, a section on transfer and transport, and a chapter on anaesthetic equipment failure.

Comparisons are inevitable with the sister *Oxford Handbook of Anaesthesia* but they are very different animals. The general handbook is more detailed but is not focused on emergencies and is too chunky to be easily portable. *Anaesthesia for Emergency Care* is a third of the width and would easily fit into a pocket or small bag. It is also much easier to access pertinent information rapidly.

Importantly, the 4th National Audit Project in 2011 looked at airway complications and found problems in emergency anaesthesia, revealing that 1 in 4 major airway events occurred in intensive care or the emergency department. This book provides essential information to anaesthetic trainees in these areas, and is thoroughly recommended to trainees in emergency medicine or intensive care, where it will contribute to the onward march of safe anaesthesia.

Ben Singer, Royal Brompton Hospital, London