

### Hutchison's Clinical Methods (23rd edn)

Edited by Michael Glynn and William Drake

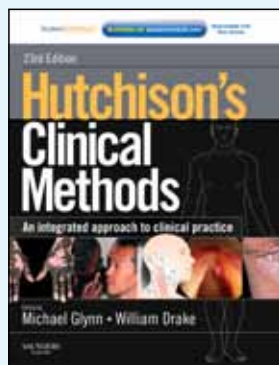
Saunders Elsevier 2012

Price £39.99. Pp 488

ISBN 9780702040917

The 23rd edition of *Hutchison's Clinical*

*Methods* serves as an effective comprehensive introduction to clinical practice for the beginning clinician. For both the book overall as well as individual system-specific sections, information is efficiently presented to lead the reader from a generalized approach in the beginning to specific points of guidance at the end, in tandem with the



book's recommended diagnostic approach for investigation of each individual patient. This facet of information organization not only allows Hutchison's to serve as a companion textbook for a clinician over years of initial training, but also allows a postgraduate clinician to easily reference Hutchison's for specific guidance, with reliance on other textbooks for specialist-level guidance.

The different sections of the book provide very accurate and detailed information on specific clinical entities, including a plethora of drawings, pictures, graphs and examples of radiological imaging, while – crucially – recognizing the limitations

of the information provided, by giving warnings as well as some guidance on how to address scenarios of clinical uncertainty.

Treatment guidance, as well as assessment of controversy between alternate tools of clinical assessment, are both outside the scope of the book. Nevertheless, one shortcoming is the lack of a listed bibliography referencing the portions of the peer-reviewed literature from which presented clinical tools are derived. If provided, this would have given guidance to the junior clinician reader for further investigation. Overall, this book is highly recommended as a cornerstone for the library for any student clinician.

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### Emergency Neurology

Edited by Karen L Roos

Springer 2012

Price £99.00. Pp 394

ISBN 978 0 387 88584 1

*Emergency Neurology* is aimed primarily at junior neurologists and emergency room physicians and covers a wide breadth of common neurological conditions seen in the emergency room. The layout is rather confusing, and there is not a consistent structure for each chapter providing step-wise guidance on how to approach a particular condition. In fact, the book reads more like a review article rather than an aid for doctors treating patients acutely in the emergency room.

The format is also not very user friendly, with pages and pages of text and few tables or illustrations. On a positive note, however, the illustrations that are there, such as in chapter 3 showing the reader how to perform the Hallpike manoeuvre and the head thrust test, are useful and laid out in a way that is easy to follow.

The chapters are also highly variable, both in their content and style of writing. Chapter 1, for example, reviews headaches presenting in the emergency department and although it does cover the main headache syndromes that are likely to be encountered in the emergency room, it appears to go off-piste a little when discussing the treatment of migraines with a large section dedicated to the use of a

rather specialist medication such as intravenous dihydroergotamine and even provides a detailed protocol for its use.

One can not help but feel that this book has an identity crisis, not knowing whether to be a quick reference handbook for the management of neurology in the emergency room or an authoritative reference manual. Unfortunately it is somewhere in the middle and does not quite achieve either.

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### Anesthesia Outside Of The Operating Room

Richard D Urman, Wendy L Gross,

Beverly K Philip

Oxford University Press 2011

Price £70.00. Pp 360

ISBN 978 0 19 529667 6

With the expansion in the number and demand for minimally invasive diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, the number of anaesthetics given outside of the operating theatre is on the increase.

This book provides a comprehensive and up-to-date review of the evidence behind the theory and practice of this often-challenging aspect of our work.

The book has 33 chapters, with the early chapters outlining the broad and unifying principles of anaesthetic care outside of the operating theatre. Patient monitoring, an overview of the various anaesthetic techniques used, followed by optimal postop-

erative care are discussed before considering financial, staffing and logistical issues.

Later chapters discuss practical aspects of a multitude of surgical procedures and their appropriate anaesthetic implications by location. This includes the endoscopy suite, the infertility clinic, radiology department and emergency department among others. Interestingly there is not a specific chapter on inter-hospital transfer of critically ill patients who are often sedated or anaesthetized. Perhaps this reflects the different practices and health-care systems between us in the UK, and the authors in the USA.

This book is informative for both the non-anaesthetist providing procedural sedation, but mainly for the trained anaesthesia provider. Covering, in detail, highly specialized niche areas of anaesthetic practice, this is by no means a core text for junior anaesthetic trainees preparing for the FRCA examinations. Rather, it provides rare and at times fascinating insights into areas of specialized practice. Some of the specialized chapters such as 'Anesthesia in the military setting' appear too short and lightweight to be adequate for the military anaesthetist, although of great interest to all others. This excellent practical reference book brings together the expertise of the authors and addresses an otherwise unmet need.

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