

End of Life Care in Neurological Disease

edited by David Oliver
Springer 2012

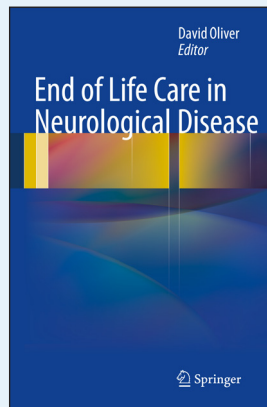
Price £26.99. Pp 238
ISBN 978 0 85729 681 8

This book was written by a group of health and social care professionals following a meeting established by the Department of Health and the National End of Life Care Programme which led to the report *End of Life Care in Long Term Neurological Conditions – a framework for implementation*. The book aims to stimulate all services involved in caring for these people to provide excellent, person-centred, coordinated care. As such, it is written to appeal to a variety of professionals.

The chapters cover a broad range of topics, including end of life care, com-

munication, symptom management, psychosocial and spiritual aspects, carers and the national strategy, although they do not go into detail about medical management of specific diseases. The book uses clinical vignettes to illustrate specific areas, which are particularly helpful when considering psychosocial issues.

The chapters on physical symptoms and end of life care will be a valuable resource not only for doctors but also other professionals helping to manage symptoms. There is a useful summary chapter on advance care planning, and the section on multidisciplinary care gives detailed information on different models



and theoretical approaches to team functioning.

The last few chapters give an overview of policy and principles of commissioning for good end of life care. It ends with an international perspective, reminding us of the variation of access to palliative care across the world, and how this is influenced by the people, different diseases, geography and differing systems and government priorities.

This book is an excellent overview of the subject, and essential for all services striving to develop high quality end of life care for people with neurological disease.
Annette Edwards, Sue Ryder Wheatfields Hospice, Leeds

Oxford Specialist Handbooks: Paediatric Nephrology (2nd edn)

Lesley Rees, Paul A Brogan, Detlef Bockenhauer, Nicholas JA Webb
Oxford University Press 2012

Price £39.99. Pp 656
ISBN 978 0 19 960137 0

The *Oxford Handbook of Paediatric Nephrology* is a concise pocket-sized book. The second edition, like the first one, is quite detailed, covering a variety of topics, both for general paediatricians and nephrologists in training and is useful as a quick reference guide.

The book includes various general topics, enabling the reader to systematically approach a patient with common renal conditions seen in practice, i.e. haematuria, proteinuria, urinary tract infections, enuresis and issues with fluid and electrolyte balance. It will be helpful for trainees to develop an organized thought process about such patients.

It is also an essential book for trainee nephrologists, especially while dealing with clinical conditions such as acute and chronic renal failure, dialysis, transplant, tumours and vasculitis. The chapter on drug prescribing is particularly useful, including a list of drugs which may require dose alteration while prescribing for renal patients and intraperitoneal doses for some of them.

In the second edition, all the topics have been updated. The chapter on urinary tract infections now includes the National

Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidelines. There is an excellent chapter on homeostasis, discussing various electrolyte abnormalities. Systolic blood pressure charts as per height, age and gender have been included in the appendix. There are useful references at the end of most chapters.

This is an excellent book giving an insight into paediatric nephrology. This second edition improves on the first and will be extremely useful for junior doctors, both in general paediatrics and nephrology.
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Pharmacology in Anaesthesia Practice

edited by Anita Gupta and Nina Singh-Radcliff

Oxford University Press 2013
Price £40.00. Pp 462

ISBN 978 0 19 978267 3

Pharmacology in Anaesthesia Practice provides a clear and rapid way to review different agents that are frequently used in clinical practice, both in theatre and intensive care.

The book is divided according to the different anaesthetic agents and frequently used drugs. There is a brief pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetic section for each group, followed by side effects, dose and in some cases clinical relevance. The chapters contain case scenarios that illustrate the use of a particular group of drugs

and demonstrate the importance of pharmacological knowledge in our daily practice. Its contents are up to date and well structured although drugs such as levosimendan and dexamethasone are excluded.

This is a north American book written by recognized anaesthetists and intensivists, many of whom hold academic positions in the USA. The pharmacological agents, units of measurements, approvals and indications relate to American practice. British readers would be unfamiliar with the words acetaminophen (paracetamol), oxycodone 325/10 or propoxyphene and the use of Normosol and Plasmalyte.

The last few chapters are particularly interesting and clinically relevant, looking at illicit drugs, drugs of abuse, alcohol, vitamins and herbal medicines. Their clinical use and anaesthetic and surgical implications are followed by clinical scenarios.

This book would complement classic pharmacology textbooks, as the basic principles are not covered.

Overall, this is a good book – easy to understand and consult. The font size is small and some of the pages are busy, but it provides a vast amount of information in a consistent, clear and understandable format despite the number of contributors. As a quick reference text, it would be helpful for any anaesthetic or intensive care department.

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