

**Advanced Training in Anaesthesia – the essential curriculum**

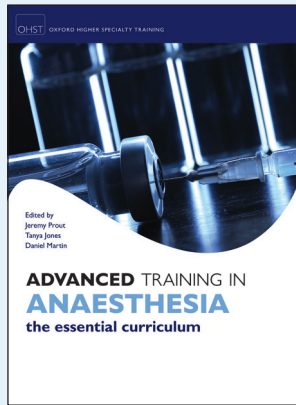
Edited by Jeremy Prout, Tanya Jones, and Daniel Martin

Oxford University Press 2014

Price £75.00. Pp 584

ISBN 978 0 19 960995 6

There is no such thing as a ‘perfect revision book’ for exams. However, this 584-page paperback reference manual comes close to it, is aptly titled and does what it says on the tin. In many ways it is essential for those revising for the Final FRCA examination. It covers most of the curriculum laid out by the Royal College of



Anaesthetists in a format that is easy to browse and comprehend.

Text is interspersed with tables and illustrations that eloquently summarize key concepts. Depth and current evidence is lacking in some areas. For example, topics such as acute respiratory dis-

stress syndrome (Berlin definition) and management of diabetic ketoacidosis could have been elaborated further. However, this is a reasonable trade-off in order to cover a greater breadth of topics.

I enjoyed reading chapters on coagulation, renal replacement therapy and airway management, which are well structured.

A clear typeface and dual-colour styling complement the overall typographic aesthetic.

Who should buy this? As well as trainees, this book is handy for any anaesthetist who would like a quick overview of a basic science subject or a more specialized aspect of anaesthesia. It is also useful for trainees in intensive care medicine, because many of the fundamental topics are common to both curricula. In contrast to its competitors, this is a ‘one-stop-shop’ with guidance on further reading. It would certainly be a useful book to have in the department and a user-friendly accompaniment to those planning to sit exit exams in anaesthesia.

*Anand D Padmakumar, Chesterfield Royal Hospital, Derbyshire*

**Asthma Comorbidities, Coexisting Conditions, and Differential Diagnosis**

Edited by Richard F Lockey and Dennis K Ledford, with WAO

Oxford University Press 2014

Price £52.00. Pp 528

ISBN 978 0 19 991806 5

Asthma is a major cause of morbidity worldwide with an estimated 200 million sufferers. As with other long-term conditions, asthma is associated with a number of comorbidities ranging from those that are respiratory related (such as vocal cord dysfunction, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or obstructive sleep apnoea) to those affecting other systems including gastro-oesophageal reflux, endocrine disorders and cardiovascular disease. Managing these comorbidities is important to maximize asthma control.

This book highlights the importance of a multi-systems approach to asthma management and provides a comprehensive reference of the diagnosis and management of the comorbidities affecting asthma. It is an excellent guide for clinicians to help them to think about other factors that may affect asthma control.

Topics are covered in a thorough and concise manner and there are good illustrations throughout the book. The first few chapters provide an overview of immunological and pulmonary aspects. In addition, systemic features including car-

diovascular, endocrine, gastrointestinal and upper airway disease are mentioned. Finally, psychological comorbidities (including anxiety, depression and substance misuse), environmental factors and food allergy are also covered.

This book, which is written by a respected group of international authors, will provide a valuable reference for both primary and secondary care clinicians as well as allied health professionals and students who are looking for succinct, up to date information to help them holistically manage their asthma patients.

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**Oxford Specialist Handbooks: Gastric and Oesophageal Surgery**

Edited by M Asif Chaudry,

Sri G Thrumurthy, Muntz Mughal

Oxford University Press 2014

Price £44.99. Pp 350

ISBN 978 0 19 966320 0

The Oxford series of specialist handbooks is familiar to undergraduates and postgraduates across the spectrum of medicine. This is an excellent, well-written addition to the series, providing a comprehensive guide to gastric and oesophageal surgery. Aimed at surgical trainees and consultants, it would also provide a useful adjunct for both gastroenterologists and students with an interest in upper gastrointestinal surgery.

The handbook provides an overview of relevant anatomy and physiology before covering benign and malignant gastro-oesophageal conditions. The layout is simple and practical which makes it easy to use both within the hospital and while studying. Practical tips highlight key questions to ascertain during a consultation and how these guide further investigations; the impact of diagnostic tests is also interpreted. Flowcharts help simplify the decision process and key investigative results are displayed.

Medical and interventional management options for each condition are discussed with support from literature and trials. The book gives an unbiased overview of different interventional techniques that can be performed for each condition, allowing the reader to reflect upon procedures he/she has witnessed, or performed, and compares them with alternatives. Strategies for dealing with upper gastrointestinal emergencies and postoperative complications are covered, which provides a veritable gamut of options in dealing with unstable patients in less favourable situations.

This book provides a concise and comprehensive guide for trainees and junior consultants in gastric and oesophageal surgery. I have found it a useful aide memoire which has improved my confidence within this challenging speciality.

*James Williamson, Southmead Hospital, North Bristol NHS Trust, Bristol*