

Heart Failure and Palliative Care: A Team Approach (2nd edn)



**Edited by Miriam Johnson,
Richard Lehman and Karen Hogg**
CRC Press 2015
Price £28.99. Pp 228
ISBN 978 1 910227 35 0

With improvements in management many patients are living to have advanced heart failure with symptoms which impact on quality of life. In these cases a palliative care approach is valuable. To provide optimal care input from a range of professionals may be needed. Involved professions may feel lacking in knowledge and confidence in some aspects of the care of patients with heart failure. This book provides a comprehensive overview of heart failure, giving a sound foundation for understanding its physical and psychosocial effects.

The book opens with a chapter examining the need for palliative care in heart failure with available evidence presented. There then follows explanation of the aetiology of heart failure and the theory

and evidence for optimal therapy, which as a palliative care doctor I found extremely useful. The difficulty predicting prognosis is acknowledged and the authors suggest that the need for palliative care may be better predicted by patient need. Symptom management strategies are explained and discussion of the psychosocial aspects really emphasizes the impact of this chronic condition on all aspects of people's lives. The need for good communication is flagged up throughout and tips on achieving this given. The chapter on caring for patients when they are dying gives useful practical management advice.

This book is a fantastic resource for anyone working with patients with heart failure. It will facilitate the integration of palliative care into heart failure management, by promoting a shared understanding of this complex condition.
Rachel Sorley, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Leeds

Encyclopedia of Trauma Care

**Edited by Peter Papadakos,
Mark Gestring**
Springer 2015
Price £449.50. Pp 1842
ISBN 978 3 642 29611 6

Described in the foreword as an outstanding source of information for a broad range of physicians, students, residents, nurses and scientists this 1800-page, two-volume North American encyclopaedia will struggle to appeal outside the narrow confines of trauma surgery.

While referencing the 2013 Cochrane systematic review on tranexamic acid for example, there is no mention of administration details which might disappoint budding emergency medicine and pre-hospital care enthusiasts. Procedural sedation is not covered; in contrast, 13 pages are dedicated to the principles of external fixation, with a further 18 to the principles of internal fixation.

Inevitably there are challenges in indexing – those readers seeking 'analgesia' intuitively will have to seek 'acute pain'. While the enormous effort spent in

creating this work is admirable, I question the value of any written encyclopaedia in the e-learning age. Unfortunately this work does not challenge that notion.

Gavin Lloyd, Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter

The Ethics of Surgery Conflicts and Controversies

Edited by Robert M Sade
OUP USA 2015
Price £22.99. Pp 384
ISBN 978 0 19 020452 5

This is a new text set on a relief of cardiothoracic surgery but with wider applications throughout surgery and medicine as a whole. The editor states that identification of what he refers to as the 'ethics gap', a relative paucity of ethics-based discussion in surgery when compared to medicine, led to a desire to facilitate the publication of ethics-based surgical articles to provide educational material and demonstrate the dynamic and sometimes subjective nature of the field. A collection of those published articles largely forms the basis for this text. As a result, the book boasts an impressive number of

contributors from surgical and wider fields. The topics covered are those deemed by the editor and contributors to be of current relevance to the practice of surgery. I did find that the arguments levied as to why surgical ethics should be set apart from wider clinical ethics do a disservice to other medical fields.

The articles themselves are grouped under broad categories, but each tends to relate to a specific topic, often with an example. The articles are arranged as a pro-con debate by two advocates who give both evidence-based objective and subjective arguments to support their stance with a summation by the editor. Some topics are widely applicable, others more specific to surgery may not relate to social health-care practice and some important topics are absent, notably consent.

Ultimately the articles are engaging to read and although a conclusion is often reached, they do seem best suited to spark awareness and discussion within the reader rather serving as a comprehensive reference textbook, something which is in line with the editor's stated aims.

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