

Critical Care Secrets (6th edn)

**Polly E Parsons, Jeanine P Wiener-Kronish,
Renee D Stapleton, Lorenzo Berra**
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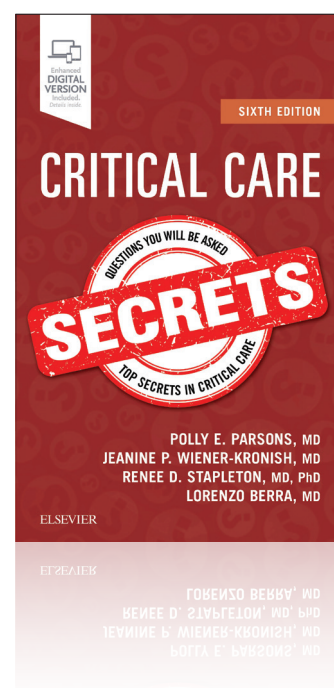
At first glance, *Critical Care Secrets* looks intimidating. The densely packed, small-sized font is initially somewhat alarming, but once the reader has immersed him-/herself into its depths, he/she is rapidly rewarded with a hugely informative, and surprisingly digestible read.

The use of a 'question and answer style' format not only divides the mass of information encompassed within the text into bite-sized, palatable pieces, but also helps the reader to dip in and out of the text as and when required. The inclusion of clear images, lists and tables, alongside the key points, improves the clarity of each chapter, providing a focused text, geared for quick access and reference.

The extensive subject matter covered in the 84 chapters is commendable, and provides a concise, up-to-date overview of a full range of essential topics in intensive care. In this latest edition, the multidisciplinary team of authors has completely rewritten and updated the content. Numerous new chapters have also been added, including those relating to the latest cardiac technology (e.g. ventricular assist and percutaneous devices), neurological monitoring, and ultrasound practices for the intensive care unit.

The fact that this book has returned in its 6th edition since its launch over 30 years ago is perhaps evidence enough of its popularity and success. If you are after a quick reference-style text to aid learning and exam revision, this could be a very worthy choice.

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Quality of Life Among Cancer Survivors

Edited by Tanya R Fitzpatrick
Springer 2018
Price £59.99. Pp 207
ISBN 978 3 319 75222 8

This textbook covers many aspects of cancer survivorship, in a broad sense of the term, with contributions from disciplines such as bioethics, genetics, medicine, nursing, social work and psychology. For health and oncology professionals and/or researchers who are preparing to work with cancer survivors, this book focuses on many relevant aspects including survivorship issues in both younger and older patients, the perspective of family members, concerns around tumour recurrence, and ethical considerations around cancer treatment. In this sense, this textbook has adopted a holistic view of survivorship care.

While many chapters are quite generic, there are a few chapters that cover very specific topics, e.g. quality of life in elderly Chinese patients living in Canada, or issues experienced by patients with tongue cancer. This may not be relevant to all readers – and because these more specific

topics are covered in greater detail, it could lead readers to think that there are some omissions as other subgroups of cancer survivors will have different issues and experiences which are not highlighted in the book.

The final chapter is written by a person diagnosed with cancer, and offers useful advice on the importance of a good doctor–patient relationship and patient-centred care. Overall, while perhaps not exhaustive, this accessible textbook offers a good overview for those interested in working with cancer survivors.

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Current Common Dilemmas in Colorectal Surgery

**Edited by Christopher Schlachta,
Patricia Sylla**
Springer 2018
Price £99.99. Pp 388
ISBN 978 3 319 70116 5

This book arose from a very successful symposium held by the Society of Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons in 2015 and this explains why most chapter authors are American. Like the symposium the text is divided into three

sections: perioperative preparation and care, endoscopic approaches to colorectal neoplasia and emergency bowel surgery.

It reviews advances in colorectal surgery and discusses how these have impacted on the many unresolved dilemmas in colorectal surgery. The subject matter ranges from the impact of enhanced recovery protocols on traditional colorectal practices, to that of the increasingly merging newer endoscopic and surgical techniques. It further describes some of the major changes in the management of common colorectal disorders that have occurred in recent years. The text is comprehensively referenced and has very good quality illustrations and tables.

In places, there is an American bias, for example there is no discussion of the impact of chemoradiotherapy on local excisional techniques for rectal cancer, which is a major dilemma in rectal surgery. Nevertheless the reviews are extremely good quality and generally thorough.

I would recommend this to all who are involved in the treatment of colorectal disease and their trainees but it would also be of interest to a more general audience.
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Minimal Access Surgeon*