

Acute Pain Medicine

Edited by Chester C Buckenmaier III, Michael Kent, Jason C Brookman, Patrick J Tighe, Edward R Mariano, David Edwards
Oxford University Press 2019
Price £126.00. Pp 624
ISBN 978 0 19 085664 9

Acute Pain Medicine is a book of two halves. The first half is case based, and focuses on specific conditions and procedures. The second half is a 2nd edition of the Military Advanced Regional Anaesthesia and Analgesia handbook, which advises on anaesthesia and analgesia in war zones.

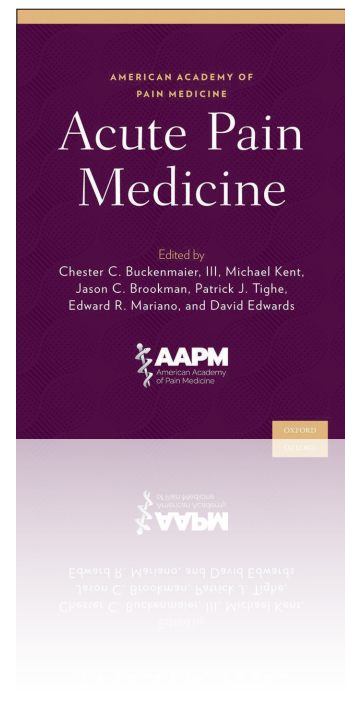
This is a book aimed at an American audience, as a lot of the medications and analgesia regimens suggested are not normally either recommended or practiced in the UK. The push to reduce opioid prescriptions is also noticeable.

The case-based learning approach will be familiar, and largely welcome to UK

doctors in training. However, often the cases presented in the book were hard to follow, and did not flow well. Some information was repeated in different cases, for example chronic regional pain syndrome. There was also discussion of surgical techniques in some chapters which, while being very informative, may not be useful to the target audience. The Military Advanced Regional Anaesthesia and Analgesia section was far more structured and easier to follow.

Section III, the Military Advanced Regional Anaesthesia and Analgesia handbook, provides a useful guide to regional nerve blocks which a UK audience would find useful. This book may be of use to anaesthetists and those specializing in regional pain techniques, and other doctors may find it a useful reference book.

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Critical Care Medicine (5th edn)

Joseph E Parrillo, R Phillip Dellinger
Elsevier 2019
Price £183.99. Pp 1346
ISBN 9780323446761

Critical Care Medicine is a colossal text – both in terms of its corpus of contents, and the sheer volume it will take up in your bag! The 5th edition, ‘completely revised and up to date’, comprises 1322 pages apportioned into eight parts and 78 chapters (independent of the additional online eBook material and 85 videos).

The editors boldly set themselves the goal of producing ‘the acknowledged “best practice” standard in critical care medicine’, but they may have achieved just that. The authors, acknowledged leaders in their fields, have addressed almost any clinical scenario one could envisage encountering on an intensive care unit, and provide a comprehensive review of relevant clinical, diagnostic and management issues based on recent literature and guidance.

Consistency in the content and style has been ensured by the editors, and as such the text is homogeneously clear and concise. Digestibility is further aided by

the concluding key points found at the end of each chapter, and key references are also provided in case the reader wishes to read up further on a subject.

Despite its international authorship, the algorithms and guidelines provided are American in origin – while these may differ slightly on this side of the pond, they do convey clarity to often complex decision-making situations. So, if you need a comprehensive yet manageable text, this could be just the read for you.

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Foundations of Respiratory Medicine

Edited by Simon Hart, Mike Greenstone
Springer 2018
Price £109.99. Pp 367
ISBN 978 3 319 94125 7

The choice of textbooks for respiratory medicine is broad, and for the discerning clinician, often bewildering. Does one go small and pocketbook, or a weighty but less mobile tome to provide definitive answers to obscure respiratory conundrums?

Foundations of Respiratory Medicine provides a welcome middle ground. Small

enough to fit in a bag, yet with sufficient detail to illuminate areas of uncertainty or forgotten facts, it is attractively packaged with colour diagrams where needed, and presented in a well set-out format.

Written by a broad selection of experienced respiratory physicians, the textbook covers the key areas required for training in respiratory medicine, and would be ideally suited to a doctor embarking on higher specialist training in this area. As a revision aid for the specialty certificate exam, it would be useful paired with a book of practice questions. For the established clinician in general respiratory medicine, it is likely to give useful background to areas outside of highly specialist practice.

The chapter on applied lung physiology is particularly good, clearly explaining this often poorly understood but critical area of respiratory medicine. There was no separate section on procedural skills, but this did not detract from the overall utility of the book.

If you are looking for something neither too large nor too small, and want to brush up on your general respiratory medical knowledge or are at the start of the journey, then this may be the place to start.
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