

## Workbook in Practical Neonatology

**Third Edition. Edited by Richard A. Polin, Mervin C. Yoder, and Fredric D. Burg. Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders Company, 2001. 499 pages in one volume, illustrated, US\$55.00**

In the preface of this workbook, the editors state that their "goal was to create a textbook format that was as entertaining as it was informative." They have succeeded. The content of this workbook is targeted for those making clinical decisions in the care of neonates. However, virtually any healthcare worker desiring a deeper understanding of the clinical course and care of these infants would benefit from the clear and well-written material in these chapters. This unique book stands alone in its creative, interactive style. The result is that learning and review of a vast amount of information is accomplished in an engaging and pleasant way.

This third edition is divided into 20 chapters, each covering the most common problems encountered in neonatology. As in the first two editions, the editors have selected experts to write on each topic. Most chapters begin with historical background on the subject being discussed. This information is generally followed by a thorough discussion of pathophysiology and then a multifaceted explanation of current treatment modalities. Active learning is facilitated in this section by the presentation of realistic case studies in a thought-provoking question and answer format. Readers are challenged to interpret radiographs, calculate dosages, and determine optimal treatment strategies. In the process, comprehension of the material presented is tested. Explanations are given for all answers. In addition, the workbook is laden with useful photographs, schematic drawings, tables, figures, and copies of radiographs, scans, pathology specimens, electrocardiographic strips, and electroencephalographic tracings. Lastly, at the end of each chapter, cutting-edge information is presented, possible future therapies are identified, and multiple references are listed. The methods of practice proposed in each chapter most likely reflect the management style of the individual

authors and their respective institutions. However, it is evident that these authors have made an effort to present their subject in an unbiased and informative manner.

Obviously not every topic in neonatology can be covered in a book such as this. Nevertheless, there are at least two important omissions. Patent ductus arteriosus (PDA) in the preterm infant is addressed in a small section in the chapter on cardiac disease, and whereas this section is informative and the rest of the chapter excellent, an entire chapter could have been devoted to this subject. The complication of a PDA can wreak havoc in the clinical course of the preterm infant, and many aspects of care such as fluid and electrolyte balance, feedings, and respiratory management need to be addressed carefully. In addition, with the growing number of preterm survivors, the topic of retinopathy of prematurity could have been covered in depth as well. Also, unfortunately, the new Neonatal Resuscitation Program guidelines were published after this book went to press, and so the first chapter, Principles of Neonatal Resuscitation, does not have the latest information for the reader. Nevertheless, the basic discussion and guidelines of delivery room management in this chapter are fundamentally sound and useful.

With the growing trend of minimal time spent in acute care during pediatric training, this book is invaluable not only for the intern and resident doing their rotation in this setting, but also for the physician deciding to do a fellowship in neonatology. This book, containing a wealth of detailed, practical information, is also a wonderful resource for any student or practicing neonatal nurse practitioner. The bottom line is that anyone wanting to improve or review their clinical understanding of neonatology would be well advised to read and study this unique and thoughtfully prepared book.

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