

BOOK REVIEW

Drugs in Anesthesia and Intensive Care, 5th edition

Authors: Edward Scarth, Susan Smith

Dr. Sairah Sadaf

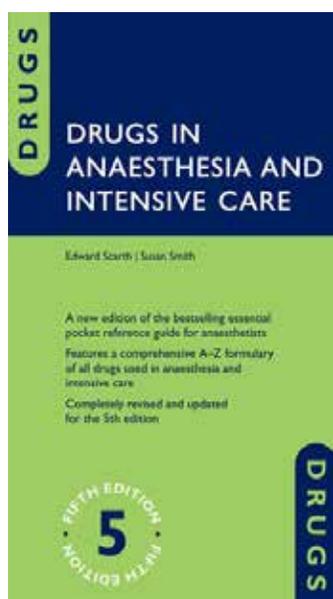
Assistant Professor

Department of Anesthesiology & Intensive Care

Sheikh Zayed Medical College/ Hospital

Rahim Yar Khan (Pakistan)

sairahbabar@live.com



The sophisticated and multiplex specialty like Critical care and anesthesia necessitates a sheer need for some single best pocket companion for their working personnel to aid them in rapid access to comprehensive k n o w l e d g e and authentic references at the spot. In swarming environment of advanced gadgets and millions of

books around, it's really exasperating and time consuming to embark upon some single best solution.

“Drugs in Anesthesia and Intensive care” is one such good addition among handbook series of Oxford publishers which has had proved to be a rapid source of invaluable information for both anesthetists and intensivists in their customary professional conduct. It reflects the coordinated hard work orchestrated by two dedicated Anesthesia consultants Edward Scarth and Susan Smith, currently working in UK, who came up with this handy source of information. This 5th edition is an improved sequel of their previous work, based on its original format, comprising 184 important as well as essential drugs with the addition of comparative drug tables at the end, leaving almost no domain of

pharmacological medicine. Drugs are systematically structured and organized in sections, like uses, chemical structure, presentation, main action, mechanism of action, route of administration, doses, pharmacodynamics, side effects, kinetics and most importantly the special points regarding each drug. It's simple alphabetical 'A-Z' style and user friendly configuration makes it more efficient and palatable as are its other competitors for its intended readers to cite a drug easily and rapidly. As this is a revised edition so some drugs are removed which are no more in common use while some new additions are made.

Shortcomings: as mentioned by the authors in the preface of this book, the basics of pharmacology are not included in this book, because they intended to complement rather to replace the standard text books of pharmacology of anesthesiology. In this context, the assertion made by authors that it will be of value for students appearing in written and oral parts of FRCA seems to be an embellishment here, while rest of the claim is achieved successfully. Secondly, my standpoint is that more tabulated comparisons of drugs belonging to same group should be drafted in the last section, thus making learning more serene and effortless for students.

As a whole, I think the main aim of writing this book is well conveyed to the intended readership and it's an utter contribution to quick learning, academic training and inflicting knowledge in the concomitant field.

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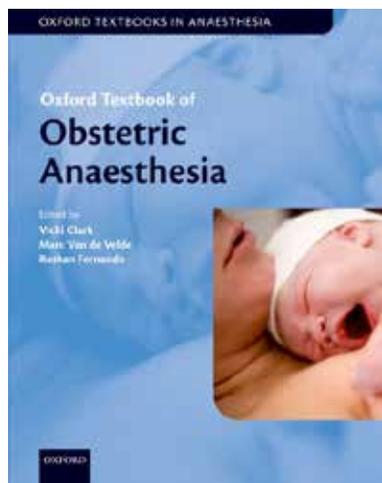
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Oxford Textbook of Obstetric Anaesthesia

Edited by Vicki Clark, Marc Van de Velde, and Roshan Fernando

Samina Ismail

*Professor of Anesthesiology,
Aga Khan University, Karachi (Pakistan)
E-mail: gauhar.afshan@aku.edu*



Obstetric anesthesia is now a recognized subspecialty of anesthesia, devoted to improve maternal health care by providing safe anesthesia and analgesia to parturient around the world. This book is the culmination of the

efforts of obstetric anesthesiologists which is reflecting their professional knowledge and expertise in the field of obstetric anesthesia.

This book is written in ten parts with total of fifty five chapters. Part one begins with the history of obstetric anesthesia beginning from 1st inhalation analgesia by James Simpson in 1847 with its gradual evolution into a specialty and progress to present day modern and safe obstetric practice. The subsequent chapters have very comprehensively described the maternal and fetal physiological changes and pharmacokinetics in pregnancy. One special feature of this book is covering topics like fetal and neonatal assessment and infertility treatment which is normally not covered under the domain of anesthesia.

The part five of this book is dedicated to obstet-

ric management of labor and labor analgesia and is comprised of eight chapters. This part covers all aspects of patients' care requiring analgesia during labor. It has comprehensively covered different analgesic modalities for labor analgesia and how to maintain analgesia throughout the labor period and how to prevent and manage breakthrough pains.

In the part six which is comprised of anesthesia for cesarean delivery, the authors have not only elaborated on different techniques of anesthesia for cesarean delivery but also have shown different management strategies of managing postoperative pain and persistent pain after cesarean delivery and vaginal birth. Authors have comprehensively elaborated on obstetric complication in part eight and have included high dependency and intensive care management in obstetric population. The section on systemic diseases in pregnancy has covered all the common diseases encountered in pregnant patients.

The book ends with the portion of recent advances which covers topics like genetics, simulation, ultrasound and international outreach programs which is the need of the day and should have information for those practicing obstetric anesthesia.

This book will certainly make a significant contribution in the provision of safe anesthesia for obstetric patients. Although this book is lengthy and few chapters could have been concise to make this book more reader friendly but overall it is a well written book. I congratulate the contributors for their efforts in bringing the practice of obstetric anesthesia to a higher level.