BOOK REVIEW

Pain Review, by Steven D. Waldman, 774 pp, with illus, \$79.95, Philadelphia, PA, Saunders (telephone: 800-545-2522), 2009, ISBN 978-1-4160-5893-9

Type and Scope of Book: A single-authored text written with the goal of creating a single text that contains the material needed to review the specialty of pain management, organized in easy-to-read, concise chapters. This book is ideally for the pain practitioner preparing for an examination or wanting to further review the field of pain medicine.

Contents: Dr Waldman has put together an organized broad review of the field of pain medicine. The book is organized into 9 sections that contain accessible, easy-to-read chapters beginning with a section dedicated to the specifics of anatomy, followed by a review of an impressive list of painful conditions. A brief overview of diagnostic testing then leads to discussion of specific interventional techniques that range from treatment of tennis elbow to implantable infusion devices. Smaller sections on physical and behavioral modalities, pharmacology, special patient populations, and ethical and legal issues in pain medicine follow. Finally, 767 multiple-choice review questions with answers are included

Strengths: This book makes effective use of helpful pictures, diagrams, and tables ideal for efficient learning. In addition, information on a broad range of topics is presented in small digestible parts for quick review.

Deficiencies: Information is procedure-oriented, providing brief reviews of many topics while in-depth review of any one particular topic is beyond its reach. This book also relies heavily on Dr Waldman's previous publications in many instances as the sole reference.

Recommended Readership: Pain practitioners of all types (residents, fellows, and seasoned veterans) looking for a quick review.

Overall Grading: ★★★

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Grading Key

★★★★★ = outstanding; ★★★★ = excellent; ★★★ = good; ★★ = fair; ★ = poor.