Book Review

Complications in Surgery. Michael W Mulholland and Gerard M Doherty, editors; First Inut Street Philadelphia, PA 19106. ISBN 0-7817-5316-3. 826 pages. Price INR 5594.

Surgical therapy being inherently risky, complications are always unwelcome. Complications in surgical practice can be because of the disease, the associated comorbidities or could be because of iatrogenic causes ie the surgeons technical error.

The text book deals with the broad concepts of surgical care and the complications relevant to operations on specific organs. Emphasis has also been laid on surgical epidemiology, disease pathophysiology and the operative techniques. This makes the book, both new in concept and in scope, making it a reference guide in the management of surgical complications.

The first section deals with the institutional issues like contemporary surgical training, continuing education for practicing surgeons, surgical credentials and the future of surgical training. It gives a good insight into the challenges faced by the western institutions and some idea as to their applicability in our scenario.

The next section covers the commonly faced broad surgical complications like shock, fluid and electrolyte disturbance, acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) etc. The chapter on ARDS is comprehensively written, giving a meaningful approach to the

Common Sense Emergency Abdominal Surgery. Moshe Schein, editor. Published by Springer-Verlag. Re-printed and distributed by Jaypee Brothers Medical Publishers (P) Ltd, B-3 EMCA House, 23/23B, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002. ISBN 3-540-78124-2. 480 pages. Price INR 560.

Emergency abdominal surgery has often been compared to a battle between the surgeon's decision and skill and the disease process. With the availability of modern day investigations, statistics and a flood of data regarding the approach to management of any disease process, a young surgeon in the peripheral setting is often confronted with a bewildering array of information, most of it being ineffective in assisting the surgeon to make a decision. This book attempts to overcome the information flood by providing a reassuring 'life boat' to the stressed out young inexperienced surgeon. It aims to conduct a 'first person' conversation between the author and the reader. The informal language and the layout of the book is intended to be read by residents, young surgeons in the periphery or in a modern hospital setting .

The book is divided into three sections, the pre-operative setting, the conduction of the operation itself and the post operative setting.

management on this dreaded entity. The chapter on electrolyte disturbances is however inadequate in its content and its dealing of commonly encountered problems.

Subsequent sections cover organ specific complications. These complications are covered as they are encountered in the preoperative, surgery and postoperative phase. The book also has chapters on the complications associated with immunosuppression and transplantation.

Keeping in touch with the changing trends, chapters on complications of laparoscopic surgery and endovascular repair are well written. Subsequent chapters cover surgery for cancer and endocrinal disorders followed by paediatric surgical complications. However there is nothing pertaining to polytrauma or head and spinal injuries which is quite relevant in this era of increasing road traffic accidents (RTA) and escalating violence be it military or civilian. This book is a good buy for the young surgeons who can use it as ready reckoner in dealing with the commonly faced surgical complications.

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Each chapter starts with a 'one liner' quote to focus on the nature of problem it deals with and proceeds in a step-by-step manner to a conclusion. There are no percentages, statistics, *p* values or even references in any chapter to confuse the reader. The first chapter deals with the general philosophy of treatment of a patient with an abdominal emergency. It emphasizes the role of following time honoured surgical principles in the light of modern understanding of the process of inflammation and sepsis. The philosophy of radiological investigations in a patient of acute abdomen is discussed extensively in the subsequent chapters. Individual abdominal emergency conditions are dealt with finally, using a 'hands on' approach in a step by step manner as a senior surgeon would do during ward rounds. This book does not attempt to replace the requirement of reading authoritative text books or monographs but it is definitely an effective supplement to aid the junior surgeon.

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