

BOOK REVIEW

Pediatric critical care medicine Volume 2: Respiratory, cardiovascular and central nervous systems

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The second volume of the second edition of *Pediatric Critical Care Medicine* contains sections dedicated to the respiratory, cardiovascular system and central nervous systems in critical illness and injury.

Each chapter includes an abstract, keywords and most also have a useful conclusion at the end. Although the chapters have intriguing titles it is not very easy for the reader to differentiate between the essential and less important sections within each chapter. Some chapters have very informative illustrations, while others do not and are consequently less attractive, if not less enlightening. The authors strive to combine the scientific basis of paediatric critical care with practical chapters on current bedside management as well as highlighting areas where the current practice is in evolution.

The chapter on 'Mechanical ventilation' gives practical and useful insights into the subject including newer modalities as non-invasive ventilation and neurally adjusted ventilatory assist. However, high frequency ventilation and ventilator-induced injury are covered in different chapters altogether.

More specialised areas such as the care of patients following congenital heart surgery are nicely divided into the type of lesion.

The section on neurological problems also contains some interesting chapters, such as the one on 'Inflammatory brain diseases' and the very practical one on 'Status epilepticus'.

The question rises whether a theoretical chapter on 'Molecular biology of brain injury: 2012' should be part of a paediatric critical care book. Considering the rapid advances in this area such a chapter can never be up to date in a textbook like this.

The book provides a comprehensive coverage of paediatric critical care issues as mentioned above and will certainly be of value to both those training in, and those already qualified in paediatric critical care. This is a useful textbook but the trainee will still also need a guide with more practical hints on how to keep the patient alive in the middle of the night.

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