BOOK AND NEW MEDIA REVIEWS



Regional Anesthesia in Trauma: A Case-Based Approach

Jeff Gadsden. Cambridge University Press, New York, USA. 2012. 142 pages. ISBN 978-1-107-60223-6 (pbk.)

Anne Lui, MD

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As the Director of the Regional Anesthesia Fellowship Program at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center in New York, Dr. Gadsden writes with the authority of a seasoned regional anesthesiologist with broad experience gained whilst in Canada, Australia, and the United States.

This monograph is compact yet full of practical clinical pearls. Dr. Gadsden provides step-by-step advice through case-based scenarios. He navigates through many areas of controversy with confidence based on available evidence. Readers will find interesting discussions weighing the advantages and disadvantages and the risks and benefits of such highly debated topics as regional anesthesia in patients at risk for compartment syndrome and in those with pre-existing neuropathy. He also discusses neuraxial anesthesia in anticoagulated patients and those with spinal injuries.

There are many practical tips on how best to secure a catheter, the best location for a block, and positioning solutions in challenging cases such as for parturients. Readers will find the sections on technical considerations for various blocks particularly useful for optimizing success.

Each case is introduced with key aspects for discussion, a review of the pathophysiology, and surgical and anesthetic considerations. Dr. Gadsden has covered a broad spectrum of patient demographics from such specialities as pediatrics to geriatrics, the obese patient, the parturient, the intoxicated individual, and the athlete. He also discusses civilian versus military trauma.

This is not a referenced book, although specific articles are often quoted. There is reference section, however, that contains a selection of valuable reading to supplement the information provided by Dr. Gadsden.

As much as Dr. Gadsden's advice echoes many of the sentiments of regional anesthesiologists, the reader should be cautioned that many of his opinions may not find consensus amongst a care team.

Overall, this is an enjoyable monograph and is highly recommended for anyone interested in regional anesthesia.

Conflicts of interest None declared.



The Ottawa Hospital, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON, Canada e-mail: alui@ottawahospital.on.ca

