

## *The Anaesthetic Crisis Manual*

By David C. Borschoff  
Cambridge University Press  
United Kingdom; 2011: 60 pages  
ISBN: 0521279860

This is a slim but information-packed handbook that reviews life-threatening occurrences in anesthesia care. Each event (e.g., “unanticipated difficult intubation,” “shockable cardiac arrest,” and “anaphylaxis”) is displayed on two pages; the first gives step-by-step instructions for managing the crisis and the second provides diagnostic tips, caveats, and follow-up considerations. Although directed primarily at the anesthesia trainee working in an operating room, many of the 24 scenarios included can occur in the emergency department or intensive care unit just as well. The simple and direct format of the instructions might be even more suitable for emergency operation trainees or intensivists who have not had as much training in anesthesia. Although the format does not allow for extensive discussions of controversial areas—such as appropriate ratios for transfusion in an actively hemorrhaging patient—the basic facts are all present, and many of the bulleted concepts are exactly the knowledge needed for written and oral examinations. The easy-to-follow format is designed for use in the midst of a crisis, and the information included will insure that the reader does not miss any major or common issue. Even the last sentence of the manual is important and instructive, “In crisis management call for help early.” I would recommend a copy of this volume for every resident call room and the top of every code cart in the intensive care unit.

\*The author declares no conflict of interest.

**Richard P. Dutton, MD**  
Anesthesia Quality Institute  
Park Ridge, IL

## *Prevention and Management of Common Fracture Complications*

By Michael T. Archdeacon, Jeffrey O. Anglen,  
Robert F. Ostrum, and Dolfi Hersovici Jr.  
SLACK Incorporated  
New Jersey; 2012: 362 pages  
ISBN: 1556429754

Complications in orthopedic surgery continue to represent a trivialized taboo in most countries and institutions. The editors of this new, groundbreaking book have to be commended for their effort in outlining preventive strategies and specific solutions for complications derived from the management of common fractures. The excellent foreword by Dr. Berton Moed alludes to Murphy’s law (“If anything can go wrong, it will”) and fittingly emphasizes that “Murphy was an optimist.” Beyond a doubt, all of us surgeons create complications, which are frequently preventable and lead to unnecessary harm to our patients. This meritorious work contributes to the philosophy of disclosing errors and adverse events, to avoid specific complications from reoccurring in a different patient.

The book is structured into six main sections, which include a first “General” part, followed by specific sections related to the anatomic fracture location (“Upper extremity,” “Pelvis and acetabulum,” “Hip,” “Femur and tibia,” and “Foot and ankle”). Each section is written by one to two authors, all of whom are distinguished specialists in the field of orthopedic trauma. Multiple tables, graphs, and color figures enhance the readability of the individual chapters. The standardized structure of describing preventive measures and surgical “tips and tricks” for salvage procedures under separate subheadings allows the reader to easily comprehend the root causes and revision strategies for specific complications.

As with any new publication in its first volume, the book suffers from some minor “childhood diseases” related to selected shortcomings and oversights. For example, a list of pertinent definitions (e.g., “What is a complication?”), either incorporated in the introductory chapter or provided as a separate appendix, would have been of value to the reader. In addition, many chapters lack a designated summary, and most of the selected summaries are simple narratives devoid of a solid take-home message. Clearly, standardized algorithms for the diagnostic workup and surgical revision of specific complications would be extremely helpful to the reader. These could be implemented as a bullet-point style summary of “pitfalls and pearls” to provide guidance in decision making. Last but not least, spine fractures represent a neglected entity in the book, which will hopefully be covered in the next edition.

Beyond a doubt, this laudable work was desperately needed and will hopefully set the precedent for a new physician-driven initiative aimed at creating and sustaining a global “culture of patient safety.”

\*The author declares no conflict of interest.

**Philip F. Stahel, MD, FACS**  
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery  
Denver Health Medical Center  
School of Medicine  
University of Colorado  
Denver, CO

*J Trauma Acute Care Surg*  
Volume 72, Number 6