Concise Anatomy
for Anaesthesia
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# Contents

Foreword vii  
Preface ix  

**Respiratory System**  
1. The mouth 2  
2. The nose 4  
3. The pharynx 6  
4. The larynx 8  
5. The trachea 14  
6. The bronchi and bronchial tree 16  
7. The pleura and mediastinum 18  
8. The lungs 20  
9. The diaphragm 22  
Sample questions 24  

**Cardiovascular System**  
10. The heart 26  
11. The great vessels 30  
Aorta 30  
Great arteries of the neck 30  
Arteries of the limbs 32  
Major veins 34  
12. Fetal circulation 38  
Sample questions 40  

**Nervous System**  
13. The brain 42  
14. The spinal cord 44  
15. The spinal meninges and spaces 47  
16. The spinal nerves 50  
17. The nervous plexuses 52  
Cervical 52  
Brachial 52  

**Appendices**  
1. Dermatomes of arm 88  
2. Dermatomes of leg 89  
3. Dermatomes of trunk 90  
Sample questions 91  

**Vertebral Column**  
21. The vertebrae 94  
22. The vertebral ligaments 100  
Sample questions 101  

**Areas of Special Interest**  
23. The base of the skull 104  
24. The thoracic inlet 108  
25. The intercostal space 112  
26. The abdominal wall 114  
27. The inguinal region 116  
28. The antecubital fossa 118  
29. The large veins of the neck 120  
30. The axilla 122  
31. The eye and orbit 124  
Sample questions 128  

Index 135
When I first started my anaesthesia job, it did not take me long to realise that I was going to have to relearn a lot of anatomy that had been implanted in my short-term memory during the second MB. I was, incorrectly, under the impression that anatomy was the sole preserve of the surgeon.

From the moment that a career in anaesthesia is started, anatomy plays a part. Dr Andreas Erdmann decided to write this book following his experiences during the final FRCA examination. The idea is a simple one, combining simple line diagrams and succinct text to cover all of the areas of anatomy essential to modern anaesthetic practice. It will be invaluable as a revision text for the FRCA, but will also help anaesthetists to retain anatomy knowledge throughout their careers. It will be useful for consultants teaching trainees and also for other theatre personnel to understand the procedures carried out by anaesthetists.

I am sure that generations of anaesthetists will be grateful to Dr Erdmann for providing such a simple and comprehensive review of an essential subject.

Richard Griffiths MD FRCA
Peterborough, June 2001
Preface

The origin of this concise book of anatomy results from many comments from FRCA examination candidates. Anatomy has always played an important role in the examination syllabus, as well as being of great practical importance in the everyday practice of anaesthesia. It is also a subject that appears to demand a disproportionately large amount of time during examination preparation. However, neglect of the anatomical subject-matter is perilous and leads to the loss of valuable 'easy' marks.

The idea behind this book is to present a concise and easily digestible outline of anatomy that has been extensively based on the current FRCA examination syllabus. I have attempted to present the core anatomical knowledge required for the Primary and Final FRCA examinations in a simple and straightforward manner. There are numerous diagrams to illustrate the subject matter, as well as additional space for the addition of personal notes. It is, however, impossible within the constraints of this book to provide in-depth detail and this should be obtained by reference to some of the larger textbooks. Sample questions are included at the end of each section, and include questions similar to those asked in previous examinations.

It is hoped that this book may also be of help to those teaching anatomy to FRCA candidates, as well as to all practising anaesthetists wishing to 'brush up' on some forgotten anatomical detail. Nurses, operating theatre practitioners and other healthcare professionals will also find this book of use when gaining a practical understanding of applied anatomy.

Finally, all errors and omissions are my responsibility, and any comments and advice for improvement will be gratefully accepted.

Andreas Erdmann
June 2001