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This book describes the pathophysiology and clinical management of common problems seen in critically ill patients. Twenty illustrative case histories are presented and used as springboards to describe and discuss the principles that underpin successful treatment of the underlying conditions. Each chapter follows a standard format: definition or description of the problem, its pathology and pathophysiology, therapeutic goals, therapeutic options based on physiological or pharmacodynamic effects, usual outcome, key learning points and references for further reading. The chapter authors are all practising intensivists and the book reflects a consensus approach to the common clinical problems seen in both intensive and high-dependency care. The book is suitable for members of the multi-professional critical care delivery team, including trainees from anaesthesia, medicine and surgery, nurses and members of the allied health professions. It is, especially, relevant to trainees in these disciplines and to those revising for higher examinations. By providing a systematic discussion of common conditions, we hope to assist the reader in formulating their own case discussions.

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