Evidence-Based Anaesthesia and Intensive Care

A comprehensive volume on the theories and applications of evidence-based anaesthesia and critical care. Coming from the internationally renowned Cochrane Collaboration – the global force in evidence-based medicine – this promises to be an authoritative guide for anaesthetists. The Cochrane Anaesthesia Review Group is one of the largest in the collaboration and, as Co-ordinating Editors of the group, the editors of this book have gathered a formidable set of contributions from around the world. The first half of the book provides an introduction to evidence-based medicine and applies the principles to anaesthesia and critical care, including critical appraisal, meta-analysis, interpreting results and controlling bias. The second half shows how to practise this in preoperative evaluation, regional and general anaesthesia, postoperative pain therapy, critical care and acute medicine. Medical professionals working in anaesthesia and surrounding specialties worldwide will find this book immensely useful.

**Ann Møller** is a specialist in Anaesthesiology and Co-ordinating Editor of the Cochrane Anaesthesia Review Group. Her specific areas of research interest are evidence-based medicine, surgery, anaesthesia and smoking intervention.

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Foreword

George Hall

Evidence-based medicine has become the new religion for many in the healthcare professions. It is greeted by the believers as the answer to all their clinical problems while the sceptics view this new upstart with grave suspicion and delight in finding discrepancies between the conclusions of evidence-based medicine and large randomised controlled trials. Like many new ideas in medicine, evidence-based practice has matured over the past decade so that a more balanced view of the strengths and weaknesses of this technique is now possible. Ann Møller and Tom Pedersen are authorities in evidence-based medicine as applied to anaesthesia and in this book have assembled a group of distinguished authors.

The first part of the book describes the underlying principles used in evidence-based medicine with a critical evaluation of potential errors and pitfalls. The teaching of evidence-based medicine is a particularly important topic as it is used increasingly in undergraduate medicine. There remains fierce debate over its role in education. The second part of the book explores the use of evidence-based anaesthesia. Many key topics in the specialty are covered and the authors have published extensively in their areas of expertise. Thus this book not only covers the theoretical basis of the subject but also provides practical help for the anaesthesiologist. Unfortunately for the editors and the authors I have no doubt that a second edition will be essential in only a few years time. The “evidence” is always evolving and older studies are found to be no longer relevant to modern anaesthesia.

Ann Møller and Tom Pedersen are to be congratulated on this tome. Although I am unconvinced by all the arguments for, and analysis of, evidence-based medicine I have little doubt that the book will be a sine qua non for all departments of anaesthesiology and for many anaesthesiologists.

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