Pharmacology for Anaesthesia and Intensive Care

THIRD EDITION

The third edition of this market-leading book has been thoroughly updated and expanded, with additional contributions from experts in the field, to include all new drugs available to the anaesthetist and intensive care specialist. Basic pharmacological principles, vital to understanding how individual drugs actually have their effects, are dealt with methodically and with many highly annotated diagrams and tables. With hospital infections becoming increasingly prevalent, the important section on antibiotics has been further expanded. With the third edition, this well established title continues to provide its readers with the most concise yet comprehensive coverage of all aspects of pharmacology. An ideal aid to study and practice for junior and trainee anaesthetists, critical care nurses and all physicians and healthcare professionals working in theatre, accident and emergency departments or intensive care units.

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PREFACE

The third edition has seen further changes. The mathematics section has been overhauled and expanded to give a better base for the kinetics. An additional chapter has been added on intravenous fluids, and the chapters on intravenous and volatile anaesthetics have been combined with an expanded section on the molecular mechanism of anaesthesia.

We have tried to maintain the style of the previous two editions with an emphasis on clarity both in terms of presentation and content. In addition we have tried very hard to eliminate those small errors that are disproportionately irritating. We hope that this book will continue to be a helpful aid to the wide range of readers it appears to have attracted.

Tom Peck
Sue Hill
Mark Williams
FOREWORD

I can remember my first day as an anaesthetic senior house officer, back in August 1985, and the advice that I received on that first day is still relevant for the twenty first century anaesthetist. “Anaesthesia is based on three basic sciences, physiology, physics and pharmacology,” said my first college tutor. The following weekend I took a trip to Lewis’s book shop in Gower Street to buy the recommended texts of the day. None of those I bought are still in print, but the pharmacology text has certainly been replaced by “Pharmacology for Anaesthesia and Intensive Care.”

The first two editions established themselves as the core pharmacology text for aspiring anaesthetists. It has evolved with each edition and the third edition has continued this trend, with some interesting new features. The mathematics and pharmacokinetics chapter is particularly well presented, and explains the concepts concisely and clearly. This is core knowledge that appears in the examinations of the Royal College of Anaesthetists but should be retained for all clinical anaesthetists and intensive care specialists.

Perhaps the title of the book should be changed for future editions as there has been a large change in medical education in the UK since the second edition, namely Modernising Medical Careers. This book is relevant to all foundation trainees who rotate through anaesthesia, intensive care and acute medical specialties. The new chapter on fluids is especially relevant to those at the start of their careers. The core knowledge presented should help to encourage good prescribing practice on all acute medical and surgical wards and avoid fluid management errors.

In summary the new edition is essential reading for those embarking on an anaesthetic career and is a core text for the FRCA. The authors come from district general and teaching hospital backgrounds but this book offers concise common sense pharmacology knowledge to all grades, even those who started anaesthesia before propofol was introduced!!

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