Core Topics in Airway Management

Third Edition

Management of the airway is an important and challenging aspect of many clinicians' work and is a source of complications and litigation.

The new edition of this popular book remains a clear, practical and highly-illustrated guide to all necessary aspects of airway management. The book has been updated throughout, to cover all changes to best practice and clinical management, and provides extensive coverage of the key skills and knowledge required to manage airways in a wide variety of patients and clinical settings. The best of the previous editions has been preserved, whilst new chapters on videolaryngoscopy, awake tracheal intubation, lung separation, airway ultrasonography, airway management in an epidemic and many more have been added.

This is an essential text for anyone who manages the airway including trainees and specialists in anaesthesia, emergency medicine, intensive care medicine, prehospital medicine as well as nurses and other healthcare professionals.

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Core Topics in Airway Management

Third Edition

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Foreword

Sixteen years have passed since we began recruiting the contributors to the first edition of *Core Topics in Airway Management* (2005). We are delighted that a third edition has been deemed useful and even more delighted with the editors appointed.

It is not surprising that opinions and techniques have changed, but the extent of the change is remarkable (videolaryngoscopy was covered in two lines in the first edition). It is also true that patients have changed, being often fatter and older and having more co-morbidities.

Problems with the airway are almost uniquely distressing and dangerous, and everybody involved wants to know the best way to ensure safety. We wrote in the first edition that there was ‘an uneasy combination of art and science’ in management of the airway. The contributors to this edition have done a great deal to solidify the evidence for best practice.

We dedicated the first edition to Dr Archie Brain, so we got something right all those years ago.

Adrian Pearce

Ian Calder
Preface to the Third Edition

The Essence of Airway Management – and Why You Should Read This Book

It is a great honour and pleasure for us to have been asked to take over editing the third edition of this book, so successfully previously edited by Ian Calder and Adrian Pearce. It is now almost 10 years since the last edition of the book was published and it is clearly time for an update.

In this new third edition we have updated only a small number of chapters – most have been completely rewritten to ensure they are up to date and relevant. While a few chapters have been combined we have added several new ones to ensure the book fully covers the range of challenges encountered during modern airway management. There are new full chapters on the epidemiology of airway complications, ultrasonography, videolaryngoscopy, combined techniques, expiratory ventilatory assist, airway management for robotic surgery, during CPR, for the bloody and bleeding airway and during pre-hospital emergency medicine.

We have strived to make this book clinically useful and globally applicable, not too dependent on national strategies or regional cultural or even legal considerations. In order to achieve that almost all chapters are co-authored by two or three individual expert authors with different backgrounds from different countries and often different continents. We are proud that the authors represent institutions from close to 20 different countries including from Europe, North America and Asia. Writing a chapter for a textbook is a labour of love and not one done for reward. We thank every single author for their expertise, knowledge, communication skills and for their patience in enabling us to produce this book.

From the cutting of the umbilical cord and for the rest of a human’s life, the airway – from the tip of the nose and mouth to the lungs – must be kept open or within minutes the human will die or suffer irreversible damage. Airway management therefore is the essence of anaesthesia and without getting it right all that follows is arguably futile. The book covers all important topics in airway management and strikes a balance between focussing on the elective patient, routine and specialist settings and emergency airway management. It does not include excessive focus on airway equipment itself but rather emphasises the practicalities of use, suitable techniques and their limitations.

Throughout medicine it is increasingly recognised that understanding equipment and learning techniques is but one part of delivering safe medical care. For that reason, the book starts with several new chapters examining the epidemiology of airway complications, airway assessment both clinical and virtual, airway planning and strategies. The importance of training, human factors/ergonomics and crisis management is mentioned in almost all chapters but each of these topics has a chapter bringing the topic together towards the end of the book.

We hope the book will appeal to and inform everyone who directly manages the airway irrespective of their parent specialty. It is also written for all those who work with airway managers and care for patients who have undergone airway procedures. The book is written with patient safety and comfort as central goals in care.

We hope that readers will understand the broader goals of airway management by a team and become confident in mastering the strategies and techniques described. We hope you will be able to introduce those relevant to your own practice. In the future it will be you who we must trust to manage our airways, and the airways of our loved ones, should it become necessary.

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