

Books, Software, and Other Media

Introduction to Bronchoscopy. Armin Ernst, editor. New York: Cambridge University Press. 2009. Soft cover, 176 pages, color photographs, \$49.99.

Among the many areas in pulmonary medicine that have been revolutionized by technological advances, bronchoscopy is one of the most striking examples. While we are witnessing this revolutionary era and the constant developments in this field, a full understanding of the basic concepts of tracheobronchial tree endoscopy is an absolute necessity for all chest medicine physicians and perhaps other personnel involved in pulmonary medicine.

Introduction to Bronchoscopy in its first edition is a concise review of this endoscopic technique and an easy-to-read, well illustrated book. The contributors are acknowledged senior leaders in pulmonary medicine and bronchology. The book begins with a historical review of the tracheobronchial tree endoscopy, then discusses the features and aspects of this endoscopic technique through its latest emerging facets in 15 well written chapters. The volume is aimed at the regular bronchoscopist in respiratory medicine, but also encompasses issues normally of great interest to pulmonary fellows in training, respiratory therapists, and other endoscopists, such as otolaryngology surgeons.

Each section is introduced by a summary, which gives an instant glimpse of what the subsection encompasses. The text is well set out with adequate referencing. The illustrations are outstanding, and the volume is filled with abundant high quality tables and figures, many of which are in color. For the starting training fellow in pulmonary medicine, this approach is very useful. **Introduction to Bronchoscopy** is an adequately priced book, bound in an attractive colorful cover. All together it makes a recommendable, good quality book.

The authors begin by describing the history of bronchoscopy. This section represents a sizable narrative fragment of the book, occupying a whole chapter of 16 pages, and discusses the historical stages that preceded the currently available endo-

scopic techniques. The following chapters follow a similar organization and presentation of topics adopted by major bronchoscopy textbooks, but of course presented and narrated in a succinct manner. The volume includes a brief overview of airways anatomy and imaging modalities; anesthesia techniques currently employed during bronchoscopic procedures; proper preparation and care of the bronchoscope; issues related to quality assurance and improvement of bronchoscopy suites; and commonly used adjunct bronchoscopic techniques such as bronchoalveolar lavage, bronchial biopsy, and transbronchial needle aspiration. The authors do not stop with just a review of the procedure itself, but they proceed to discuss the procedure's role in various conditions, and conclude with the most recent advances in interventional and therapeutic bronchoscopy.

A feature I like as a pulmonary physician is a presentation by the authors of the upper and lower airways anatomy and the role of 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional imaging for detection of central airways disease, in 2 concise chapter reviews. The discussion of central airways pathology is supported by a generous number of clear illustrations and figures of various disease states of the major airways, such as stenotic and malacic airways. The pharmacology of local and systemic drugs commonly used during the peri-procedural period received an entire chapter. A brief overview of basic pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics concepts of currently available local and systemic anesthetic products, adverse reactions, and related complications was addressed based on well selected and organized materials. Although a thorough and detailed discussion of this particular subject is beyond the scope of this book, it is worth mentioning the lack of systematic discussion of major guidelines published by the American Society of Anesthesia, as well as the recent introduction in bronchology of the use of alpha-2 partial agonists and other newer anesthetic agents. Nevertheless, I still found the chapter content appropriate, with the authors not hesitating to refer the interested reader to relevant

references and published guidelines related to this particular topic.

Tables seemed also to be a constant feature of the many sections and chapters included in this book. For many clinicians and physicians in training, tables provide a method to strengthen conceptualization. I must say that the authors did a wonderful job in this regard. In particular, I liked the way the authors utilized key findings on bronchoalveolar lavage studies to discuss a wide range of infectious and non-infectious inflammatory lung pathologies. There are several other tables and diagrams included in this book discussing complications related to intravenous sedation and local anesthetic agents, procedure indications and contraindications, and disease-specific bronchoscopic findings, just to name a few, that give some perspective on the different aspects of this diagnostic and therapeutic modality.

In conclusion, I believe this book is more than a simple description of bronchoscopy. It is a practical reference for the pulmonologist in providing a well referenced review of this technique. It is also particularly helpful for young trainees in pulmonary medicine and respiratory therapy as an easy-to-read learning tool in order to better understand the various technical and non-technical aspects of tracheobronchial tree endoscopy. For the educator in pulmonary medicine, the book also provides to some extent a constructive tool to use in courses related to bronchoscopy. Accordingly, I welcome this book to the existing literature in bronchology and I recommend this text for all medical personnel and groups who are involved directly or indirectly in bronchoscopy, regardless of the care setting.

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The author has disclosed no conflicts of interest.