

largely focuses on hand-washing). In addition to the concerns about surrogate end points raised above, one worries that these additions may distract the reader interested in the detailed understanding of what evidence does exist regarding the stated topic of the book. On the other hand, this does serve to illustrate the important point that much of what is done in the intensive care unit on a daily basis is living the life unexamined.

Structurally, the book is clearly printed and easily read. A rapid search through multiple chapters would be facilitated by standardizing both the placement of charts of references and the structure of each chapter into sections on search strategy, methodology grading, study critique, and summary recommendations. Illustrations are few and the index brief.

However, a more serious critique is whether, given current information technology, the hardback book is the appropriate repository for information in a rapidly changing field. The most recent references discussed in this text (published in 2004) are dated 2002. By definition, a book like this will be out of date as soon as any new high-quality studies are published, and for \$129 I have serious reservations as to the wisdom of the investment for either individuals or libraries. Thus, although certain sections of this text are exemplary and clearly live up to the editors' ambitions, their publication in hardback form is more important as an opportunity to contemplate the ongoing challenge of disseminating new data and placing the data in clinical context.

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Interventional Pulmonary Medicine. John F Beamis Jr MD, Praveen N Mathur MBBS, Atul C Mehta MBBS. (Lung Biology in Health and Disease series, volume 189, Claude Lenfant, executive editor) New York: Marcel Dekker. 2004. Hard cover, illustrated, 689 pages, \$195.

This book is an outstanding resource for physicians, respiratory therapists, bronchoscopy technicians, nurses—anyone who is interested in learning more about interventional pulmonary medicine! The topics range from the usual rigid bronchoscopy and flexible bronchoscopy chapters to less-addressed topics such as whole-lung lavage, medical thoracoscopy, and gene transfer. The book is easy to read, with chapters about many topics in interventional pulmonary medicine. Each chapter deals with a different mode of intervention. Some subjects got more than one chapter (eg, photodynamic therapy and medical thoracoscopy), and in those cases, each of the chapters contributes to a broader knowledge of the subject. Until now I have used several texts as references for the variety of interventional pulmonary techniques and therapies; however, this is an excellent start for a one-stop reference. The excellent index also makes it an easy reference text. Another positive attribute of this book is the outstanding international authorship. The “giants” have contributed to this book.

If one has an interest in reading the primary literature, each chapter is well referenced, so original sources can easily be determined and sought. Most of the literature in interventional pulmonary medicine has been case reports and case series of procedures done with patients who have a particular condition, such as tracheal or main-bronchus narrowing due to tumor. When possible, the chapters review the evidence base, and this aspect of the book is commendable. Examples include the chapters

on laser bronchoscopy for malignant disease, silicone airway stents, and photodynamic therapy for early lung cancer.

My criticisms of the text are few. I found very few typographical errors. Few of the photographs are of mediocre quality, though that is sometimes hard to avoid if the choice of photographs is limited (eg, Fig. 2, on page 243).

I think this text will be valuable to many types of providers, as it discusses both the basics and the more complex issues within interventional pulmonary medicine, thus helping both practitioners and their assistants to prepare for and provide these procedures. Most chapters discuss the indications, contraindications, equipment, preparation, and technique. The discussions elaborate on procedures to improve safety, and they address many of the complications, both early and late, that one might encounter. I particularly appreciated the detail with which whole-lung lavage is described. It is an example of a procedure that might be necessary if one is not able to transfer a patient to a tertiary-care hospital. The extended discussion of the physiology of whole-lung lavage, during and after, is outstanding.

The breadth of the topics reviewed is extensive. Chapters discuss topics from rigid bronchoscopy, which many pulmonary books address, to gene transfer and quality of life after interventional pulmonary procedures. The price of this book is typical for this class of books. It is a good value for the quality with which topics are discussed and referenced. I appreciated the effort to touch succinctly and thoughtfully on a variety of subjects. Without any reservation, I recommend this text to readers interested in interventional pulmonary medicine.

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