

management, and outcome of the patient. There are also key points in a table that provide brief but concise information about the most relevant aspects of the particular disease, including definitions, presenting symptoms, diagnostic evaluations, and management guidelines. Each case guides the reader through the medical thought process of how different respiratory illnesses are approached and managed.

The third part of the book provides self-assessment, and is presented with 3 different formats of questions that review the knowledge acquired throughout the first 2 sections of the book.

The first group of questions is multiple-choice. It is presented as quick clinical cases, followed by a general question regarding the case. There are 4 different choices, of which only one is correct. The second group of questions is presented as clinical vignettes that need to be matched to the most appropriate answer. Lastly, the third group of questions consists of clinical vignettes followed by a series of pertinent questions that need to be answered with the previously acquired knowledge. The first 2 sets of questions have answers without explanations; however, the third set of questions provides useful insights.

The final portion of the book has an index of cases by diagnosis, as well as a regular index.

In general, this book provides an extremely coherent approach to respiratory medicine, starting with the basic science of the respiratory system, going through physical examination and evaluation techniques to thought processing and medical decision making. The readers encounter important information that provides a solid understanding of the main respiratory problems, how and why they come to be, and how we as clinicians can recognize them through a detailed clinical history, relevant physical examination, and diagnostic workup. Its case-based approach emphasizes patient continuity, which is the basis of the patient-physician relationship and may reassure the physician in his or her clinical decision making. The book gives the reader up-to-date information about the different aspects of basic respiratory medicine through the presentation of the most commonly encountered pulmonary clinical problems. Anyone eager to learn will find the approach in the book as a pathway to common sense rather than a memory game. The structure of the book gives the reader easy access to infor-

mation through the bullet-format review tables and by highlighting pertinent information of the different themes in discussion.

One of the most important aspects of the book is the system-based approach to respiratory medicine. I believe this lets the student channel all information toward pulmonary problems but at the same time takes into consideration the other organ systems that affect the lungs, such as the cardiovascular system. It does this with broad differential diagnoses provided in different tables and charts. Also important is the fact that the book presents different clinical scenarios of real human beings who need our help. This is certainly a comprehensive way of understanding that, despite the lungs being a single organ system, they are part of a very complex organism: the human being.

I definitely recommend this book to anyone who is eager to learn about respiratory medicine and who wishes to have a greater comprehension of this body system.

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Integrated Cardiopulmonary Pharmacology, 2nd edition. Bruce J Colbert and Barbara L Kennedy. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson/Prentice Hall. 2008. Soft cover, 408 pages, \$63.80.

Cardiopulmonary pharmacology represents the application of pharmacology to the treatment of cardiopulmonary diseases and disorders. It is essential for health-care professionals to acquire a sound background in the general principles of pharmacology and an in-depth knowledge of the drugs commonly used in the treatment of patients with cardiopulmonary disorders. The delivery of medications via the aerosol route has greatly increased in recent years. In the hospital setting, the respiratory therapist is at the center of the world of aerosolized medication delivery. Therefore, it is imperative for respiratory therapists to keep up with the latest advances and maintain their expertise in all aspects of cardiopulmonary pharmacology. **Integrated Cardiopulmonary Pharmacology**, now in its 2nd edition, is a well organized, comprehensive textbook that will help facilitate vital lifelong learning in medicine from the classroom to the hospital room.

In the preface to this 2nd edition, the authors are quick to let the reader know why their textbook is unique and how it addresses the concerns of keeping up to date with developments that may have taken place before it gets to bookstores. The authors state that in the current edition of this book, "the main changes include updating and revisions needed in any pharmacology textbook to keep up with the latest advances in this dynamic area." Further, they also explain the advantage of the "integrated" approach of the textbook that links pharmacology to physiology and pathology, which gives the reader more relevant understanding of the material. On a lighter note, the authors reveal their frequent use of humor throughout the textbook. Educators would all agree that respiratory care students are especially delighted when learning is made easier when elements of whimsy are incorporated into serious subject matter.

Many special textbook features are incorporated to help students learn pharmacology more effectively. The "Get Connected to the Web Site" section enables the student to easily connect to an interactive companion Web site. It commendably includes updates on new drugs and treatments, videos, animations, references, additional readings, and sample National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) style test questions. There is also a "Learning Hints and Controversies" section in each chapter, to further engage the student. Clinical pearls are spread throughout the textbook to allow the student to apply the book knowledge to real patient situations. Key terms, including symbols, units, and abbreviations of medical terms, are included for easy reference. Chapter questions, in multiple-choice, matching, and case-study formats, can be found within each chapter, to check for student comprehension of the material presented. A separate pocket "Drug Companion Guide" is integrated with the textbook. The guide provides more detailed information concerning specific drug uses, routes, actions, interactions, and both pediatric and adult dosages. All of these special features are extremely valuable accompaniments to this well rounded textbook.

Integrated Cardiopulmonary Pharmacology is divided into 3 parts and uses a building-block approach to teaching pharmacology. Part one is the foundation material that is needed to begin learning. Part two is the next layer, that examines the specific drugs used in patient care. Part three is the

finishing touch that ties everything together by applying pharmacologic treatment to cardiopulmonary diseases and disorders.

Part one, "The Basics," introduces the general pharmacologic principles, the metric system and drug dosage calculations, pharmacology of the autonomic nervous system, and medicated aerosol treatments. Each well organized chapter begins with objectives, key terms, abbreviations, and a whimsical cartoon to set the stage for successful learning. Many helpful figures and informative tables that support the text can be found on just about every page. "Medicated Aerosol Treatments" gives the learner a thorough overview of the description, advantages, limitations, and proper technique for each of the aerosol-therapy devices currently utilized in clinical practice. This chapter ends with the authors' prediction that "the future holds much promise for the aerosol route."

Part two, "The Specific Drug Categories," thoroughly examines bronchodilators, mucokinetics and surfactants, anti-inflammatory and anti-asthma agents, anti-infective agents, cardiac agents, blood pressure

and antithrombotic agents, neuromuscular, sedative, anesthetic, and analgesic agents, and medical gases. Each chapter reviews the numerous agents available for treatment, their doses, route of administration, and potential for adverse effects. Accurate updates and descriptions of all drugs currently available in today's clinical marketplace are included. In addition, there are superb case studies at the end of each chapter that reinforce the clinical application of each of the different drug categories and help facilitate learning the material.

Part three, "Putting It All Together," expertly investigates the pharmacologic management of obstructive pulmonary disease (asthma, chronic bronchitis, and emphysema), pharmacologic treatment of respiratory infectious disease, and medications for advanced cardiovascular life support. Each chapter thoroughly presents an informative overview of the background, differential diagnosis, symptoms, management, prevention, patient education, and follow-up of each of the cardiopulmonary diseases and disorders. In addition, useful disease-man-

agement protocols, action plans, and treatment algorithms are presented to help illustrate and reinforce the text.

At the end of this well organized textbook there are 4 sections. First, is a drug list that names both the brand and generic name of each of the drugs presented in the book. Second is a glossary that defines key terms from the chapters. Next, are valuable references and suggested additional readings for each chapter in the book. Lastly, there is an informative and useful index.

This book is a valuable resource for any educator, respiratory therapy student, or respiratory therapist. **Integrated Cardiopulmonary Pharmacology** is an exceptional, comprehensive, up-to-date pharmacology textbook that will allow the respiratory care community, students and practitioners alike, to obtain and maintain mastery of this important area of patient care.

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