

## Book Review

**Anaesthesia @ Allied Sciences for Paramedics (A textbook for Trauma Technicians, B.Sc operation theater students, Nurses, Physiotherapists)** by Dr. Manpreet Singh, MD; Published by S.R. Health Sciences Pvt Ltd, Darya Ganj, Delhi, India, 2014, 1282 pages, ISBN: 971-81-921480-0-7

The first edition of the book 'Anesthesia & Allied Sciences' by Dr. Manpreet Singh and published by SR Health Sciences, New Delhi, India, is aptly titled and well aimed at the basic purpose of strengthening the learning of paramedical staff including BSc OT students, Trauma technicians, nurses and physiotherapists.

The book has an exhaustive list of contributors who are well known and acclaimed in their respective fields of expertise, originating from both basic medical sciences and advanced and critical life support sciences. The author has done a commendable job here by bringing in this eminent team of authors on one platform.

The book lists the chapters beginning with an introduction to the basic health sciences, which is the most essential step for the paramedical personnel to start with the learning. The author precisely introduces the historical aspects of anesthesia making it an interesting cruise into the Chinese inventions through the advancements in the 18<sup>th</sup> century till the latest modern anesthetic procedures in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This makes reading a delightful experience.

The author succinctly introduces the principles and practices of anesthesia in a phased manner making the reader adept with the procedures. The author has exercised caution in inserting the much necessary photographs and flowcharts for the basic reader to understand the minute details of the inside flow of work in the operating room. The reader is given a chance to understand the mechanism of the administering machines, the nature and the complicated pharmacotherapeutics in a scientific manner.

The authors have taken appreciate efforts to involve the essential details including the biophysical mechanisms of the compounds used, as well as the equipment used. Authors have taken special care in introducing the reader to specific drug requirements, and caution to be exercised in managing different types of patients. The authors have equally done a good job in detailing the handling of complications. It would have been more complete if a section on medico legal aspects of anesthesia was introduced and management of legal issues was inserted in the book. This becomes an integral component of every book, with medico legal issues in health practice becoming the order of the day. All the components of the book and all the chapters are very convincing in giving the reader an effortless and pleasurable experience. I am confident that the readership for the book will substantially benefit in a competitive marketplace where the advantage of this book is that it is marginally priced for the volume and content it has offered.

The highlighted final section consists of all the essential flowcharts which makes it a quick reference for any person who is involved in anesthetic care, and fetches the most desirable and time saving methods.

The sheer size of the book, and the effort to squeeze in as much information as possible might appear reading this book an arduous task, but the smooth flow of language in all the chapters certainly should take care of this difficult task. I am sure the authors would have kept in mind the limited language skills the paramedical professional would possess, and it appears that the authors have made matching and suitable language adjustments.

It is worth mentioning a few words about Dr. Manpreet's academic background. His qualifications from the most prestigious institute in India and his varied training credential in all the advanced life support sciences merits him the honor of this authorship.

Overall, I would say the book is a complete, readable, relevant work. It is successful in capturing the reader's attention, clearly outlining the scope and aim of the book, and adhering to the central argument of keeping the book in sync to the limitations of the paramedical person. The book is balanced in its strength of giving comprehensive information and in its weakness of being a bit overpriced to the reach of an individual reader. However, considering its competitors overseas, this particular book makes a considerable impact in reaching its audience. I would certainly recommend this as any institutional reference book and a personal prized possession as well.

Head, Dept. of Forensic Medicine  
Ayder Referral Hospital, College of Health Sciences,  
Mekelle University, Mekelle, Ethiopia  
(hareeshrashmi@gmail.com)  
October 2014

Prof. Dr. Hareesh Kumar