

Book Review

Hemodynamic Monitoring: Invasive and Noninvasive Clinical Application

by Gloria Oblouk Darovic, RN, CCRN, CEN

Information of the sort provided by this book, often relegated to introductory chapters on anatomy and physiology, is presented here in the context of clinical application. This approach emphasizes the importance of basic science to the decision-making process used by every clinician. To this happy mixture of clinical and theoretical information are added many practical "pearls" to increase the accuracy and usefulness of the information gathered by an examiner. When a patient is in crisis and timely decisions are necessary, many clinicians read the "numbers" provided by whatever patient monitoring devices are available. For EMT's and paramedics who have yet to gain a clear picture of the relationship between the "numbers" they measure and the hemodynamic performance of the patient, this text provides excellent instruction. In the introduction to this lucid text, Ms. Darovic reminds, "In any clinical circumstance, the maintenance of organ function depends on adequate regional blood flow and oxidative metabolism, which can only be evaluated by bedside clinical observation of skin color and temperature, capillary refill, quality of pulses, level of mentation . . ."

Although much of the book is devoted to invasive monitoring techniques used by critical care nurses, the chapters on

anatomy and physiology and physical assessment of the pulmonary and cardiovascular systems, arterial pressure monitoring, and monitoring patients in shock are replete with material appropriate for streetside medicine. In the chapter on arterial pressure monitoring, for instance, the propriety of using the bell of the stethoscope to appreciate the Korotkoff sounds is discussed, as well as the affect of regional vasoconstriction on pressures indirectly measured in the extremities. The chapter on monitoring the patient in shock deals with the relationship between blood pressure measurements and low cardiac output states.

This text will be a useful adjunct for the paramedic or EMT who is serious about developing a clinically relevant decision-making process regarding care for patients in hemodynamic compromise.

Darovic, GO: *Hemodynamic Monitoring: Invasive and Noninvasive Clinical Applications*. 402 pages, soft cover. W. B. Saunders, Philadelphia, 1987.

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