

Book Review

Problem Solving In Cardiac Arrest

By Ken Grauer, M.D.

There is now a refreshing departure from the ACLS textbooks on medical resuscitation of the arrested patient, *Problem Solving In Cardiac Arrest*. This book addresses nursing, paramedic and physician audiences with an energetic style and unusual clarity that will appeal to novice and veteran clinicians alike.

The reader is faced with a challenge to integrate their past experience with a presentation of new material. A format of progressive complexity discourages "skimming" and premature advancement. This limits the value of the book as a reference, but enhances its effectiveness as an instructional tool. Although it uses a workbook form, this approach is kept to a bearable minimum. A formal workbook, *Interpreting ECGs*, is an excellent complementary publication.

Problem Solving in Cardiac Arrest is basically divided into the following sections – Overview of Resuscitation Algorithms, Humanistic Insight Into Common Misconceptions of Management Techniques, Drug Dosages, Calculations and References Compendium and Problem Solving of Clinical Resuscitation Problems.

There are several areas covered in the book which this reviewer found to be particularly well done. These areas

include, but are not limited to, tachydysrhythmias, carotid sinus massage, analysis of the Ashman phenomenon and the clinical consequences of its misdiagnosis. An in-depth discussion of differentiation between ventricular ectopy and atrial ectopy with aberrancy was, for this reviewer, the highlight of the dysrhythmia identification section.

In subsequent publication revisions, a greater stress on initial physical evaluation, drug calculation and a segment on the decision to resuscitate may be of benefit to many new providers.

In the final portion of the book, the reader is put in charge of a code team. They are presented with scenarios requiring initiative and stumbling blocks in need of solution. If the reader has followed the text, he or she is made to feel that their knowledge, independent of simple following of an algorithm, can make a difference.

Grauer, K: *Problem Solving In Cardiac Arrest*. C.V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1984. 212 pages, softcover, \$19.95.

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