

Book Review

Electrocardiography: The Monitoring Lead

By Richard Wiederhold

Richard Wiederhold's "Electrocardiography - The Monitoring Lead" seems to fulfill its prefaced intentions. It does provide the student/clinician with the means to interpret and recognize major dysrhythmias without the "cluttering" of the reader's mind by the more complex aspects of cardiology.

The necessary topics of cardiac physiology and EKG interpretation are addressed in an orderly, logical, yet simple manner. Major objectives and terminology are outlined at the beginning of each chapter and these are reinforced by summary and a self study guide at chapter's end. Also helpful in the emphasis of "key" points is the red boldface print of important "axioms" or facts placed in the page margin. These offer a visual separation and emphasis from the text.

Nearly one half of the book is dedicated to practice EKG rhythms, most of which are clear and readily interpreted given that the reader has understood the text. For a greater challenge there are 42 "advanced" rhythm strips provided.

Also included are tear-out flash cards with EKG tracing, interpretation and differential criteria of twenty one major dysrhythmias.

The Wiederhold Algorithm also deserves recognition as a useful tool with which the student/clinician may learn to rapidly identify underlying dysrhythmias. The algorithm structure is based upon five "primary criteria" of rhythm analysis. This structure enforces a methodical approach to interpretation.

Overall, Mr. Wiederhold's book appears to be a comprehensive, thorough text and a very useful resource for the student clinician.

Wiederhold R: *Electrocardiography: The Monitoring Lead*. 319 pages, soft cover. Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich/Academic Press, Orlando, 1988.

Reviewer: Charles Anderson, REMT-P
Palm Harbor Fire Department
Pinellas County EMS