



Book Review

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF BURNS MANAGEMENT.

Edited by John AD Settle, UK. 1996. ISBN 0-443-04476-7. Pages X + 496. Price 103 Sterling Pound.

This is a multi author book with contributions from twenty nine burns surgeons and allied health personnel from reputed burn centres and hospitals in UK and USA. The six main sections of this book include organization of burn care, pathology of burns, early care, management of burn wound, surgical categories of burns, continuing care and rehabilitation. These sections have been further divided into thirty eight chapters. Each chapter is an in depth study of the subject with useful references. Appendices and index are also useful.

In the first chapter the role of burn treatment centres in burn prevention and need for a proper strategy for burn prevention has been rightly stressed. The importance of stopping the burning process by eliminating any of the three components (fuel, air or oxygen and ignition) necessary for combustion and effect of dousing with water (tap) or another non-flammable liquids (milk, canned drinks) has to be thoroughly explained. The guidelines given to the first responder is systematically described.

The chapter on anaesthesia in burns patients is matched to the complexity of the patient presenting for surgery. To understand the mechanism and severity of the burn injury the pathophysiology of

burns has been well described indicating depth of knowledge required for proper care for burns patients. The principles of replacement fluid therapy makes a basics of the fluid therapy more lucid. In the section of continuing care and rehabilitation it has been made clear that burn care is not primarily about shiny, modern facilities, although they have large bearing on the care, it is the multidisciplinary task, a host of professionals (nurses, physiotherapists, occupation therapists, psychologists and social worker) all playing their part in care of burn victims. After going through this section each member of the team feels that his/her contribution is worthwhile.

However, this book does not adequately deal with reconstructive aspects of burns and radiation injury. Most of the illustrations are excellent with occasional clear line diagrams. The book starts with thirty nine beautiful colour plates.

The layout is unhurried and the structure of the book is well organized.

I think this book will be useful for all the medical libraries which would include readers from burn centres, trauma centres and hospitals dealing with burn patients.

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