

Pancreatitis Medical and Surgical Management

Editors: David B. Adams, Peter B. Cotton, Nicholas J. Zyromski, John A. Windsor, Wiley-Blackwell, Hardcover/ E-book, 336 pages, Cost: \$135.00 (Hardcover), \$108.99 (E-book)

Pancreatitis, a new offering from Wiley-Blackwell, is a textbook-sized hardcover written with an eye toward the increasingly popular publishing trend of diagnosis-based compendiums. In this vein, 17 chapters are compiled that span the epidemiology, pathophysiology, multidisciplinary management, and long-term outcomes for patients afflicted with the disease. Major topics, including pathophysiology, endoscopic approaches, and surgical options, are addressed in multiple sections in a single chapter and grouped by the same number designation with iterative letters (ie, “Chapter 16A: A brief history of modern surgery for chronic pancreatitis,” “Chapter 16B: Surgery for chronic pancreatitis: indications and timing of surgery,” etc.).

There is broad appeal in this text, particularly for those seeking a deeper understanding of pancreatitis than can be found in the traditional surgical canons. As in traditional texts, each chapter stands alone in addressing a topic of interest, allowing for readers to return to the book when guidance on highly specific information is sought. There is some minimal overlap between chapters, providing reinforcement of key topics as the reader progresses through the book. Chapters are arranged in a logical fashion that somewhat resembles the natural history of the disease.

Each chapter is well referenced to primary source literature and appropriately highlights landmark studies in both the clinical and basic sciences. For example, “Chapter 2B: Locoregional pathophysiology in acute pancreatitis: pancreas and intestine” provides a wonderful discussion on changes in the pancreatic microcirculation during inflammation and hemorrhage. A principle strength of this text is the multidisciplinary consideration given to problems that cross the traditional lines of multiple specialties.

“Chapter 7: Treatment of local complications” exemplifies this trait, with surgical, gastroenterologic, and radiographically guided therapies integrated into a single chapter with relative indications and contraindications for each discussed. The surgical chapters of the text, particularly the several parts of “Chapter 16,” are small gems that tend to be succinct and well illustrated.

This book is ideal for a senior surgical resident, fellow, or young attending as they begin to integrate their subspecialty-specific knowledge into the management of pancreatitis in a multidisciplinary setting. While surgical options are discussed, the book is not written to replace a surgical atlas and key concepts in perioperative management and potential complications are given a lighter hand. Medical students and junior residents may also find this text helpful in their preparation for teaching rounds and in the day-to-day management of patients. This is particularly true given the nature of each chapter: clear, focused, and relatively concise. The book may also find an audience in gastroenterologists and interventional radiologists seeking to gain a deeper understanding of the role of surgical procedures in the management of this disease.

Pancreatitis would make a good addition to the shelves of a pancreatophile’s office or library. It is a handy reference, particularly in review of pathobiology concepts in the disease and in the state-of-the-art options for percutaneous and endoscopic management options. It sells for \$135.00 (Hardcover) and \$108.99 (E-book) and is available from Wiley-Blackwell.

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Book Review of: Complications After Gastrointestinal Surgery

Editors: Samiran Nundy, Dirk J. Gouma. Oxford University Press, Hardcover, 399 pages, \$156.00

Complications after surgery occur even among the best and most experienced surgeons in the world. Although complications are associated with negative outcomes, the best surgeons are able to diagnose the complications early, avoiding potentially worse outcomes, and then properly manage them. This hardcover textbook provides an exhaustive review of the complications in abdominal surgery, including strategies to avoid these complications and ways to manage those that are unavoidable. It also provides the reader with a framework for reading the surgical literature in regards to, grading systems for complications and outcomes research. Chapters on hospital and operating room organization to decrease complications in surgery as well as a background on the national programs that have been enacted to decrease complication rates are also included. This text goes even further by providing a chapter with examples of how countries have utilized these skills to decrease their complication rates. The book is well organized into organ systems throughout the gastrointestinal tract with each chapter beginning with an abstract that well summarizes the material to be presented. The authors are predominantly from Europe, India, and Australia; however, the references are well represented by North American literature as well.

This book is all encompassing, addressing all facets of surgery including providing care in low resource settings. It will serve well as a text for fourth-year medical students and interns and as a primer to more in-depth reading of selected topics for upper-level residents and junior attendings. Senior surgeons sitting for their recertification examinations will also benefit. The text is as up to date as a textbook can be with many references published in 2017 and with many chapters written by leaders in their respective fields. However, some chapters are more informative and in-depth than others and there is no online access or accompanying electronic version.

This hardcover textbook sells for \$156.00, which is well worth the investment, as it can be used at all levels of training and is a good starting point for further reading on selected topics.

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