

BOOK REVIEW

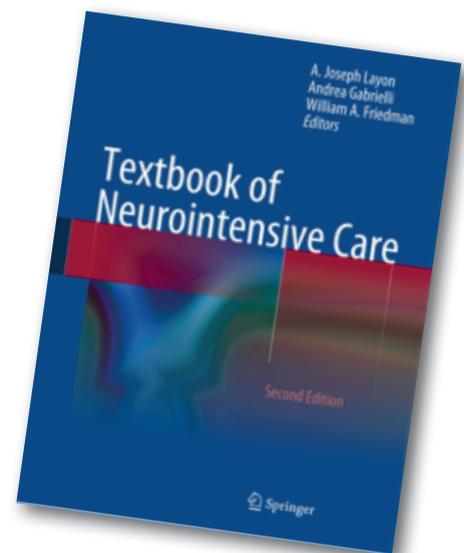
Textbook of neurointensive care

A.J. Layon, A. Gabrielli, W.A. Friedman (Eds.)

This textbook aims to cover all aspects of neurointensive care. Although not explicitly stated by the authors in the foreword, it seems to be aimed primarily at educating neurointensive care, which is an acknowledged subspecialty in intensive care in the United States. It is edited by acknowledged critical care physicians and a neurosurgeon (two of them also edited the well-known Civetta, Taylor and Kirby's Critical Care). Authors include seasoned neurointensive care researchers and clinicians. The book is organised in introductory sections covering neurocritical care organisation, quality management and neurocritical care as emerging subspecialty in the US. The following sections involve 'neuroanatomy and pathophysiology', '(non)invasive neuromonitoring', 'general intensive care issues specifically applied to the neuroinjured patient', '(evidence-based) management of specific neurointensive care diagnoses (e.g. subarachnoid haemorrhage, traumatic brain injury)' and 'situations of special interest'. The neuroanatomy and pathology chapters cover the basics very well and are richly illustrated. The neuromonitoring chapters provide a good overview although a more detailed discussion with regard to the current status and usefulness of different monitors for clinical practice would have been valuable. The chapters on general ICU issues applied to neuroinjured patients are useful for clinical practice and enhance understanding about the specifics of neurointensive care patients. Some chapters are not specifically aimed at neuro-ICU (e.g. the chapter on mechanical ventilation, which lacks a discussion on potential interaction between PEEP and ICP). Other chapters, however, are quite comprehensive, e.g. the chapter on coagulation disorders, handling both coagulation issues in neuroinjured patients in general and specific diseases such as thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura. The disease/condition specific chapters include contents of international guidelines when present and give a good overview of current knowledge. However, some chapters are still 'US' inclined, for instance triple-H is still – rather lacking in critique – regarded as the gold standard in the treatment of delayed cerebral ischaemia (DCI) after aneurysmal subarachnoid haemorrhage, and 'vasospasm' is still used to indicate DCI although international (including US) guidelines on terminology of DCI/vasospasm have suggested otherwise. There is a nice chapter on care of postoperative neurosurgical patients with extensive case descriptions. The two paediatric-specific chapters seem a

bit redundant in this volume, in my opinion, as is an extensive chapter on spinal cord surgeries. Neuroradiology, ethical issues and brain death are handled quite extensively and a chapter on applied pharmacotherapy concludes this volume.

Apart from some critiques as stated above, this seems to be an essential book to be available for libraries of ICUs where neuroinjured patients are managed. Keywords for this volume are: comprehensive, well-illustrated and well organised.



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