

Book Review

Morbid Obesity: Perioperative Management

Editor: Adrian O. Alvarez, MD

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Hard cover: 417 pages, including index.

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Although an abundance of journal articles have dealt with the individual aspects of the perioperative management of the morbidly obese patient, there has been a striking absence of a comprehensive review of this subject. That is, until now. Alvarez and associate editors Brodsky, Alpert and Cowan, have filled that gap. This book – whose authors include 23 anesthesiologists, 11 critical care specialist, 7 surgeons and 4 nursing specialists – discusses in depth every aspect of the perioperative management of the bariatric surgical patient. This multidisciplinary approach has created a very useful 417-page reference text. Its publication is extremely timely because more and more physicians are now involved in the care to these patients.

The book contains contributions from many recognized experts in their respective fields. Each one provides a detailed discussion of the challenges that

the anesthesiologist, surgeon and critical care specialist may encounter when caring for the morbidly obese surgical patient. The book is divided into several sections, each of which deals with a different area of management. These include sections on the altered physiology associated with morbid obesity, preoperative evaluation and preparation of the patient, the management of medical co-morbidities, intra-operative management and postoperative care, postoperative analgesia, monitoring, and the clinical pharmacology of obesity. Recommendations for safe anesthetic approaches are also presented. The editor has covered almost every detail of the perioperative experience, even including chapters on informed consent for bariatric surgery, surgical antibiotic prophylaxis, and the anesthetic management of the obese parturient.

Alvarez's lucid presentation of these complex and timely issues is an achievement in itself, but even more so is his production of a very readable book. This book is assured to inform and complement the busy clinician. I recommend it to every physician involved in the care of the morbidly obese patient.

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