Anaesthesia at a Glance

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Anaesthesia is often intimidating for students. Within the relatively short time allocated to this discipline on most undergraduate curricula, there seems to be a bewildering array of unfamiliar drugs, equipment and practical procedures. Yet at the very heart of anaesthesia is the modern concept of perioperative medicine. The fundamentals of anaesthesia, such as assessment and management of the airway, respiration, circulation and analgesia, are applicable to all hospital staff involved in the care of the surgical patient.

Both authors are practising clinical anaesthetists and also actively involved in undergraduate teaching. Moreover, as anaesthetists are the largest single group of doctors within hospital medicine it seems appropriate that a contemporary undergraduate textbook is available as an introduction to the specialty.

The aim of the authors has been to cover the practice of anaesthesia to a level appropriate for a medical student who is about to embark on the Foundation Programme. Certain specialized subjects that are traditionally taught, such as physics, have therefore been omitted.

Each chapter has a self assessment section of both multiple choice questions and case studies. The answers are not exhaustive, but should encourage further reading on the subject.

Whilst this book is aimed primarily at undergraduate medical students, it may also prove of value to Foundation Doctors looking after patients in the perioperative period, doctors embarking on a career in anaesthesia and theatre staff such as Operating Department Practitioners.

The authors would like to thank Laura Murphy, Helen Harvey, Elizabeth Norton, Simon Jones, Ruth Swan, Kevin Fung and Brenda Sibbald. They acknowledge and dedicate this book to those who have given encouragement and support throughout. JS would like to thank Edwina, Freddie, Hugo and Lucinda. WF would like to thank Victoria, George, Alice and Joseph.

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Each topic is presented in a double-page spread with clear, easy-to-follow diagrams supported by succinct explanatory text.
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