

information that is summarised in the 16 pages devoted to this topic. Perhaps this could have been accorded a broader coverage, given the increasingly important role that physiotherapists and occupational therapists are playing because of the focus of shifting patients away from more passive treatments to active management strategies.

Not surprisingly, there is fairly substantial coverage of physical and electrophysical treatments. These two chapters will be of significant interest to those who are not well versed in the background to treatments used by physiotherapists and occupational therapists. It is refreshing to see a rigorous approach taken to evaluating the evidence for different treatment modalities with an emphasis on evidence-based medicine. I was pleased to see mention of the potential important effects of the motor system and pain. This has been a neglected area of research but has recently come into focus because of the finding of reversal of neuroplasticity changes and hyperalgesia as a result of the fitting of a highly effective prosthesis following amputation.

In the chapter on electrophysical agents in pain management, although there is a coverage of TENS, there is no discussion of the role of spinal cord stimulation. This is surprising in view of the substantial literature now pointing to an important clinical role for this modality.

My only other comment relates to the coverage of complex regional pain syndromes in the chapter on neuropathic pain. I was pleased to see a disclaimer concerning the traditional description of stereotyped stages of chronic regional pain syndrome (CRPS). I was, however, surprised to see that there was not more acknowledgment of the likely role of spinal and supraspinal mechanisms in CRPS. Thus not surprisingly there was no mention of the role of dorsal column spinal cord stimulation and spinal drug delivery, particularly clonidine.

Although mentioned, I had expected to see more emphasis on the critical role of weight bearing and regaining other functional movements in the affected limb. I have been waiting for some time to see a rigorously controlled study of the efficacy of the "scrub and carry" technique, which is used in many centres for upper limb CRPS. In the chapter on the acute care setting, I would have liked to have seen reference to the NHMRC document on the scientific evidence of acute pain management (NHMRC 2000).

It will be apparent that I have had to work quite hard to find some areas where further comment was warranted. It is of great interest to me to see the substantial change in perspective of the physiotherapist and occupational therapist and the marked increase in commitment of health professionals from these areas to the field of pain. The growth in interest in this area has been quite extraordinary since a national physiotherapy meeting held in Adelaide in the early 1990s entitled "Moving in on Pain", at which Patrick Wall and I were both guest speakers. This book will be a major resource for physiotherapists and occupational therapists who wish to further their knowledge of pain management and will also be a valuable resource for training programs in physiotherapist and occupational

therapist. The need for a major increase in the number of physiotherapists and occupational therapists with expertise in this field is underlined by a recent study of more than 17,000 individuals in Australia reporting an incidence of persistent pain of 1 in 5, with one third of these individuals being moderately or severely impaired (Blyth et al 2001).

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## References

- Blyth FM, March LM, Brnabic AJM et al (2001): Chronic pain in Australia: a prevalence study. *Pain* 89: 127-134.
- NHMRC (1998): Acute pain management: scientific evidence. Canberra: Ausinfo.

**Pryor JA and Prasad SA (Eds) (2002):  
Physiotherapy for Respiratory and  
Cardiac Problems (3rd ed.) Edinburgh:  
Churchill Livingstone, 625 pp.  
ISBN 0-443-07075-X.**

The third edition of this book continues to provide excellent information for undergraduate students, new practitioners and those wishing to begin work in this area of speciality. The new editor has brought her obvious expertise in the field of pediatrics to this book.

The issues addressed in the book range from basic assessment and examination and detailed investigations to specialty areas such as transplantation surgery and neonatology. The authors consist for the most part of either academics or senior clinical staff from the UK, South Africa and Australia. It is therefore representative of what is taught in most universities and what physiotherapists use in their clinical practice.

A criticism of this book is that, like Topsy, it "just grewed". Individual authors have added further detail over the years to each edition with the result that the chapter and information can be unbalanced, repetitive and at times contradictory. For instance, explanation of respiratory muscle function is repeated a number of times, with some authors (Chapter 1) claiming that scalene are accessory muscles, whilst in Chapter 3 they are claimed to be prime movers of respiration. Some sections and chapters are well introduced, but others (eg Chapter 6, Physiotherapy Techniques) begin immediately with no overall statement as to what is to be covered.

Chapter 1 looks at basic examination and assessment. I found it surprising that pulse oximetry was not discussed in this chapter as one of the basic measures of assessment. Presently it is regarded as the "4th vital sign". Apart from this, examination and interviewing of the patient is generally well covered. I felt it may have been better to combine the information in some other chapters to make this chapter more comprehensive and complete. I found Chapter 4, on monitoring and interpreting medical investigations, to be written in patronising way, with no

attempt to explain how to interpret data for clinical decision making. It repeats the information on ECG and arterial blood gases which was covered in an excellent fashion in Chapter 2. The information on haematology is useful but could have been included in Chapter 1. The description of the basis of invasive measures such as pulmonary artery catheters could have been transferred to Chapter 11, on intensive care of the critically ill adult. Information contained in Chapter 2 on thoracic imaging is valuable and a good resource. Not only does it give an excellent guide to interpretation of chest x-rays, but other techniques and their uses are also explained. However, the paediatric section is repetitive, with information about the same imaging techniques. The techniques and particular signs which are specific to paediatrics make excellent reading.

Cardiopulmonary Function Testing (Chapter 3) is addressed in a first-rate manner and covers a wealth of information to be used as basis for interpretation and treatment plans of pathology elsewhere in the book. The paediatric section delivers excellent information about differences in interpretation of all paediatric investigations including lung function, oximetry and exercise testing and relates this to specific diseases.

Chapter 5, on effects of positioning and mobilisation, is excellent and well referenced. It gives a logical rationale and extensive referencing as to the cardiovascular and respiratory effects of changing position and mobilisation. However, despite being updated, it is still written in a persuasive tone similar to that used when these concepts were first introduced. These days, physiotherapists do not need to be convinced of the benefits of these modalities. In keeping with the new theme of the book, the differences in positioning of the neonate as compared with the adult could have been discussed.

Patients' problems, management and outcomes are dealt with in Chapter 7, which presents an excellent way to blend the knowledge in previous chapters. This chapter skilfully blends the pathology and uses problem solving and lateral thinking.

The discussion of paediatric material (Chapter 13) includes a section on examination and techniques used in children leading on to specialised areas of the critically ill neonate, head injury and cardiac surgery. The section on the critically ill neonate was informative and discussed issues of current concern. In the sections on care of the head injury and cardiac surgery paediatric patient, referencing was largely by literature reviews and other textbooks. This may reflect the lack of research done specifically on these areas in paediatrics as yet.

Chapters 10, 16 and 17 on such specialised areas as non-invasive ventilation, cardiopulmonary transplantation and spinal cord injury are well written, comprehensively referenced and indicate the authors' obvious extensive clinical expertise. The chapters on cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation, which have new authors, contain information that is more directed, still with a strong evidence base and would enable the new practitioner to begin work in this area. It is difficult to know where one could obtain such comprehensive information short of a

specialised book on these topics.

I doubt there is any other textbook that combines the information of different surgical procedures and implications for physiotherapy in Chapter 12. The "Physiotherapy Key Points" in this section are excellent and could have been a feature throughout the book, as it encouraged the author to describe specific implications for physiotherapy. This section's coverage of pain relief is also a good resource for the student or beginning practitioner.

Discussion of intensive care for the critically ill patient (Chapter 11) attempts to cover a large area of information. While it is generally reflective of current practice, I consider a section on critical illness polyneuropathy would have been justified. The tables were generally useful, but I would have liked to have seen some case studies and illustrations of problem solving. The section on manual hyperinflation could have been discussed in further detail with the number of studies currently available.

Chapters - especially those in the section on physiotherapy techniques - are written in different styles depending on the amount of evidence available. The editors have stated in a previous edition that an evidence base consists of not only what is proven, but also what clinical experts continue to use in their practice. The content is therefore not limited to only proven techniques. Techniques such as proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation and treatment of musculoskeletal disorders in cardiopulmonary patients lack any actual evidence, but give a firm base of physiological reasoning for the technique. The section on intermittent positive pressure breathing could have had more recent articles mentioned. The authors have attempted to use all possible interventions currently in use and it is good to see a variety of techniques which could aid the cardiopulmonary patient in this section, such as acupuncture and transcutaneous electrical stimulation.

A further strength of the book is the chapters on interpersonal aspects of care, communication, counselling and health education, and care of the dying patient. These add depth to the book and encourage a holistic approach. These problems are frequently encountered in this area, but it is difficult to find the specific information given here.

The results of attempting to cover such a wealth of information means that no subject is covered in depth and if the practitioner wished to specialise in this area, they would need to peruse individual textbooks on the subject. However, it is certainly an excellent introduction and resource for the practitioner. The extensive referencing allows physiotherapists to pursue further reading. I feel that this is an essential textbook to have in any department library and should be compulsory reading for the student and new graduate. The addition of the paediatric sections is worthwhile to justify purchase by a physiotherapist entering the paediatric respiratory field. I doubt if such comprehensive information which encourages problem solving and reflects current practice is available in any other one textbook.

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