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978-1-107-60159-8 - Analgesia, Anaesthesia and Pregnancy: A Practical Guide: Third Edition

Steve Yentis and Surbhi Malhotra

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# Analgesia, Anaesthesia and Pregnancy

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Third Edition

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## Preface

The first edition of this book was written in order to provide useful, practical information and advice to obstetric anaesthetists, in the form of a ready and easily accessible guide to obstetric anaesthesia and analgesia. The book was aimed primarily at trainees, both those starting in the maternity suite and their more experienced colleagues preparing for anaesthetic examinations. We also hoped the book would be of use to more senior anaesthetists and those of all levels involved in teaching obstetric anaesthesia, as well as non-anaesthetists working in the maternity suite.

In this third edition, we have reviewed and revised each section but kept to the original aims, structure and format, since we are convinced that the need for a short, practically based text still exists. In doing so, we have attempted to bridge the gaps between routine obstetric anaesthesia and analgesia and the care of women with co-existing medical conditions, and between anaesthetic care and advice before pregnancy and that during pregnancy itself.

As before, we have assumed basic anaesthetic knowledge and thus do not include topics such as anaesthetic equipment and drugs, etc., except where there are areas of specific obstetric relevance. We have tried to base the advice given on what we believe would be considered standard UK practice, supported by evidence wherever possible, although we have deliberately not included supporting references for each point made since this would, in our view, detract from the readability and ease of use of this book; readers wishing to obtain such reference lists are directed to the many larger, more comprehensive texts that are currently available. (N.B. Website addresses are given for non-journal documents that are available online; we apologise if, in time, some of these may become incorrect.)

We hope that the layout of the book is easy to follow and that any repetition and inconsistencies in structure are not too irritating. We have tried to provide a brief list of pertinent further reading where possible; often this has meant that very large topics have been left relatively unreferenced, since there are few journal reviews broad enough in scope. Finally, we gratefully acknowledge the contributions of Dr D. Bogod, Dr D. Brighthouse and Dr C. Elton to the first edition, and Dr A. May to the first and second editions.

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