

Preface



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Guest Editor

Anesthesiologists typically find that their primary task is the management of an anesthetic while a surgeon is dealing with a major surgical illness. Yet it is a rare patient who does not have other medical issues independent of the anesthesia or the current surgical condition. With the surgeon fully occupied with the task of surgery, and no other physician present, it falls to the anesthesiologist to manage these other, often quite common, medical problems. Some anesthesiologists may view these problems as outside their domain of expertise. Others, and this may be the most modern approach, view themselves as complete perioperative physicians—the “internist of the operating room.” Perhaps both viewpoints are a bit exaggerated.

It is the intention behind this issue of *Anesthesiology Clinics* to consider a group of common medical problems from the vantage point of the anesthesiologist. Because cardiopulmonary issues are so prominent among an anesthesiologist’s concerns, and are so often reviewed, the goal here is to reach beyond these. In this brief volume only a few selected topics could be considered. The text begins with a new and unique approach to perioperative risk assessment, proceeds to some key cardiac problems, then reviews several metabolic issues, and finishes with a few specialty topics. It is the authors’ hope that these chapters will aid the clinical anesthesiologist in

the management of these common problems in a practical and scientifically sound fashion.

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