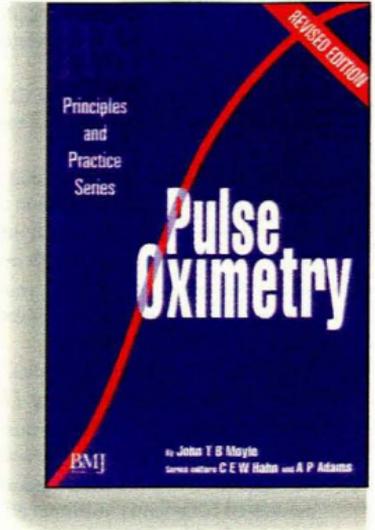


PULSE OXIMETRY

Revised Edition. Principles and Practice Series. By John TB Moyle. Series editors CEW Hahn and AP Adams. Pp. ix +140. £18.95. BMJ. 1998. ISBN 0-7279-1235-6.

The pulse oximeter as a non-invasive monitor of hypoxaemia has revolutionised monitoring in anaesthesia and intensive care over the past 12 years. The potential for misinterpreting the results from this useful device makes it essential that the user is aware of its operation and limitations. The basic knowledge required to do so is comprehensively covered in this 140 - page book.



The early chapters discuss the historical development of the pulse oximeter, the principles involved in oximetry and the workings of the pulse oximeter. The text includes a discussion on the problems inherent with the calibration of this device.

Later chapters focus on the general and specific applications of pulse oximetry. This revised edition includes a new chapter on fetal pulse oximetry. The technical and physiological limitations of the pulse oximeter are well described. Minor criticisms are the lack of discussion on the statistical methods needed to compare different pulse oximeters and too much detail in describing the mechanisms of obstructive sleep apnoea.

The text is clearly written and is accompanied by frequent, well drawn line diagrams. Important points are highlighted in text boxes. It is comprehensively referenced.

This book will be especially useful for staff involved in anaesthesia, intensive care medicine and neonatology, and for registrars in training in these disciplines.

Peter Gordon

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