



Renal and Metabolic Disorders, edited by John A. Kellum and Jorge Cerda. Published by Oxford University Press, New York, NY. 240 pages, \$52.78, 2012. ISBN: 978-0-19-975160-0

This book is written by critical care, nephrology, and endocrinology specialists and is targeted to the critical care audience.

In several recent studies, kidney injury in critically ill patients has been noted to be on the rise and is increasingly recognized as being important in determining overall patient outcomes. For instance, in critically ill patients, the requirement of renal replacement therapy with dialysis confers up to a 40% increased risk of in-hospital mortality. As well as being frequent, even slight kidney injury affects morbidity, recovery, and, most importantly, mortality of critically ill patients, and it is an inescapable part of modern critical care.

The recognition of kidney injury, possible causes, and preventive and supportive measures are some important aspects covered in this book. Failure of quick recognition, understanding, and appreciation of the implications of kidney injury can lead to delays in therapy while conferring increased risk to patients.

The book is highly readable with well-delineated sections and headings. It avoids a common problem of long prose text that interferes with concentration and easy referencing. It makes for succinct, targeted learning. Importantly, the book avoids delving into details of renal physiology that may not necessarily assist in comprehension but can instead cause

further confusion in the understanding of a complicated field of medicine. The figures and tables in the book are used only to enhance comprehension.

The book includes highly relevant aspects, such as drug dosing in kidney disease, as well as renal replacement therapies relevant to the critical care setting. The chapter on drug dosing includes a table that gives a general overview of the effect of kidney injury on the metabolism of some drugs. The book includes a chapter on the particulars of the modes of renal replacement therapy, such as continuous venovenous hemofiltration or hemodialysis, which are used almost exclusively in the critical care setting. This chapter is unique in its simplicity in dealing with a complex aspect of critical care nephrology.

All in all, this book covers all aspects that arise in the critical care realm that are related to kidney disease and are useful mainly for critical care specialists and other specialties who participate in the care of critically ill patients. This includes nephrologists, cardiologists, anesthesiologists, and endocrinologists, just to mention a few. In addition, surgical specialists who participate in critical care would find this book a good introduction to the various nephrological or metabolic complications that are common in these patients.

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