

## **Perioperative Blood Management: A Physician's Handbook**

Editor: Jonathan H. Waters, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, SABM and AABB, 209 pages

In this small book, is a wealth of practical information for clinicians. It is an authoritative joint publication initiative of the Society for the Advancement of Blood Management and the American Association of Blood Banks. The strength in this approach is clearly apparent from the range of high profile contributors with wide subspecialty and practical experience. Of particular note is the way the editors, with 21 contributors, have achieved a book that reads as a "single author book" with almost no duplication and no conflicting information.

The book is well structured with a good balance between core knowledge, practical guidelines and references. The principles of perioperative patient blood management are succinctly presented with a clear emphasis on preoperative assessment with a pre-emptive approach to any potential problems that may increase the likelihood of allogeneic blood transfusion. The central concepts of perioperative blood management are lucidly described: *"For the surgical patient, perioperative blood conservation commences at the time of the patient's surgical booking, through the operation, and into the recovery process. At each step of the way, the effective use of blood conservation and blood recovery techniques can preserve vital blood components that would be lost otherwise, thus reducing the patient's exposure to allogeneic transfusion."* The pharmacological, blood conservation techniques and alternatives to allogeneic transfusion are all summarized in detail. The increasingly important point of care laboratory testing is reviewed in detail.

This is a convenient pocket sized "state of the art" book in which each chapter is extensively referenced. Although it is impossible, in a book of this size, to cover all aspects of blood management, the reader is directed to other publications for information on blood components, allogeneic blood transfusion and anesthesiology. This is a clinical practice information resource that should be available at the workplace, if not in the pockets, or on the PDAs of clinicians involved in perioperative care. Although the central purpose of this book is to minimize blood loss and allogeneic blood transfusion, a brief summary of the techniques for minimizing postoperative venous thromboembolism could round off a most valuable contribution to the medical literature.

In producing a book of this nature the authors should be congratulated on their achievement and courage. Why courage? As highlighted on the front cover, this is the first edition of a book that could rapidly "age" and regular updates will be essential if the book is to develop a life of its own. The next edition could be titled, *"Perioperative Blood Management, A Physician's 2007 Handbook."*

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