



ATUL C. MEHTA, MD, EDITOR

### TREATMENT OF CARDIAC EMERGENCIES (5th Edition)

By Emanuel Goldberger, MD, and Myron W. Wheat, Jr, MD  
CV Mosby

This is a new edition of a book first published in 1974. It is organized in three parts. Part One defines the various presentations of syncope, cardiac arrest, cardiogenic shock, arrhythmias, acute myocardial infarction, hypertensive emergencies, acute dissection, and acute cardiac tamponade. It describes briefly the etiology, differential diagnosis, and pathophysiology of these entities. It also provides practical details of the emergency management of these conditions, although the approach to treatment shows a tendency toward more conservative forms of therapy that may not be universally accepted.

Part Two describes temporary and permanent cardiac pacemakers as well as defibrillation and cardiac monitoring. This part is more technically oriented, and devotes about 50 pages to pacemakers, modes of pacing, and pacemaker insertion. This is followed by a brief description of DC defibrillation and cardioversion with practical hints, and only a small chapter on cardiac monitoring systems.

Part Three covers medications used in cardiac emergencies. Each medication is briefly described with information on pharmacology, indications, side effects and toxicity, interaction with other drugs, dosage and administration, maintenance dose, and preparations. The list is current up to 1990.

The strength of the book is its concise, practical approach. The alphabetized organization of the section on medications is very helpful as a quick reference in treating cardiac emergencies. On the other hand, the book is too large for pocket use in the emergency room. The illustrations could have been more frequent and would have been more impressive in color rather than in black and white.

This is a valuable quick reference book for medical officers handling cardiac emergencies, and for medical students, medical residents, and inter- nists dealing with cardiac emergencies.

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### BONE SPECT CASE STUDIES

By B. David Collier and Ignac Fogelman  
Mosby Yearbook

This well-rounded introduction to single-photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) of bone and its clinical application also serves as an atlas of abnormal cases, illustrating improved diagnostic accuracy with bone SPECT.

The format is a compilation of cases showing that bone SPECT can display bone lesions that are missed or equivocal on planar bone imaging. Specific pathologic entities presented include spondylolysis, stress or posttraumatic fractures, osteoid osteoma, facet osteoarthritis, focal metastases, osteomyelitis, diskitis, pseudoarthrosis, and avascular necrosis. Various regions of the skeletal system are prone to show as negative or equivocal on planar bone imaging, but as definitely positive on SPECT.

The introductory chapter is well written and briefly discusses the rationale for performing bone SPECT, performance protocols (including quality control and quality assurance) for both SPECT and planar bone imaging, indications for SPECT, and justifications for the increased cost and increased imaging time. There is also a chapter on SPECT in the examination of normal bone and a chapter on pitfalls and artifacts. This is followed by 28

case studies using both planar imaging and SPECT, often correlated with other imaging modalities.

For nuclear physicians who want to incorporate bone SPECT imaging into their laboratories, this is an excellent primer. It will aid the accurate interpretation of cases and the recognition of specific clinical indications for bone SPECT. The seasoned nuclear physician already familiar with bone SPECT will find this text useful as a review of specific disease entities and differential diagnosis.

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### RESOURCES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Resources for Rehabilitation, Inc.

Approximately 43 million Americans live with a major impairment. This book, updated regularly, provides information helpful to anyone coping with the needs of disabled people. It begins with an overview of current thinking about disabilities, laws, education services, and the rehabilitation process. References at the end of each chapter and listings of self-help groups, current publications, tapes, organizations, and assistive devices are helpful.

The remainder of the book covers diagnoses that have a rehabilitative component, including hearing and speech disorders, diabetes, epilepsy, low back pain, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury, and visual impairment and blindness. For each entity, the disease process and its effect on patient and family are described.

Health care workers who regularly treat people with disabilities or chronic conditions will find this book a valuable reference to share with their patients and families.

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### GUIDE TO CLINICAL TRIALS

Edited by Bert Spilker, PhD, MD  
Raven Press

Bert Spilker, physician-pharmacologist at Burroughs Wellcome Company (Research Triangle Park, North Carolina), has produced an unrivaled researcher's desk reference in this, his tenth and most comprehensive book. Spilker includes all details of how to perform clinical trials; however, he emphasizes the intellectual challenge and humanistic purpose of research over the tedium and frustration sometimes associated with it. He covers broad topics concisely and clearly and makes excellent use of figures and tables that are adaptable to a variety of studies.

This book unites and expands upon material from Spilker's well-known previous books and introduces valuable and less-expected topics, such as how to plan surgical trials or trials for evaluating medical devices, the private practitioner's role in research, scientific misconduct, and the role of journals in improving standards of clinical trials. Spilker discusses statistics and data processing nonmathematically, stressing their importance yet advising that they never undermine clinical judgment. Monitoring, auditing, and publishing are covered as well.

Spilker moves from such basics as recruitment and randomization to