

BOOK REVIEW

Pulmonary Rehabilitation

Edited by C. Donner, N. Ambrosino and R. Goldstein

Published by Hodder Arnold, London, UK

Pages: 405 Price: £110.00, €159.34. ISBN 0-340010-17-3

This is an excellent book on a subject that has received increasing attention in the last few years. A book on this subject appears timely. The book is composed of several parts: 1) The foundations of pulmonary rehabilitation; 2) Outcome measurement; 3) Delivering pulmonary rehabilitation: general aspects; and 4) Delivering pulmonary rehabilitation: specific problems.

The sections seem appropriate, although some sections seem less appropriate in the context of pulmonary rehabilitation such as: international trends in epidemiology of COPD; genetics of airflow limitation; assessment of respiratory function during sleep in chronic lung disease; cardiopulmonary interaction during sleep; and pharmacological management in chronic respiratory disease. A larger section on muscle training and on adjuncts to a rehabilitation programme (anabolic agents, proportional assisted ventilation, neuromuscular stimulation) would have been interesting.

A stricter focus on pulmonary rehabilitation would have improved the book. Both the authors and editors are without

question the world's best experts in the field, giving the book a sense of authority. The scientific and clinical level of the book is very high, with excellent illustrations. However, for some sections colour illustrations would have been preferable.

Each chapter has a summary and a few key bullet points which greatly facilitate reading. There are no special electronic features that facilitate retrieval of information from the book.

I would recommend the book to chest physicians or residents in pulmonology with an interest in pulmonary rehabilitation. The content appears too specialised for students. The strengths of the book are that it is written by experts, it is up to date and that the scientific and clinical level is very high. The weaker points include the lack of the chapters outlined above, the lack of means to retrieve information electronically and the lack of colour illustrations.

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