

ABCs of Emergency Medicine

Eighth Edition : 2017

Dedication

This book is dedicated to all health professionals working in acute care

Though our work is challenging, we can aspire to bring
our compassion, knowledge and experience to care
for those who seek our assistance in a time of crisis

And to our families for their love and support

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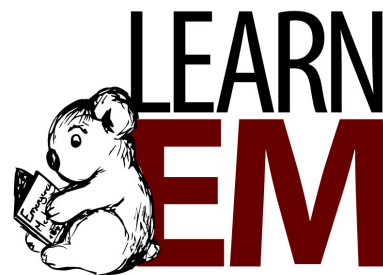
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Contents

Critical Care	Page
1. Approach to the Critically ill Patient	2
2. Core Principles in Resuscitation	4
3. Acute Airway Obstruction	7
4. Advanced Airway Management	12
5. Rapid Sequence Intubation	17
6. Acute Respiratory Compromise	24
7. Non-Invasive Ventilation	27
8. Mechanical Ventilation	30
9. Circulatory Collapse / Shock	35
10. Management of Critical Bleeding	41
11. Advanced Cardiac Life Support	46
12. Altered Mental Status	52
13. Principles of Emergency Ultrasound	58
14. Bedside Ultrasound in Clinical Care	61
15. Preparing for Retrieval of a Critically ill Patient	66
16. Emergency Disaster Management	70
Trauma / Injury	
17. Major Trauma : Patient Assessment	76
18. Major Trauma : Resuscitation	80
19. Cervical Spine Clearance / Imaging	86
20. Management of Pain in Trauma	91
21. Principles of Wound Management	92
22. Emergency Management of Burns	98
23. Orthopaedic Injury : Upper Arm	104
24. Orthopaedic Injury : Wrist	110
25. Orthopaedic Injury : Hand	114
26. Orthopaedic Injury : Hip and Femur	120
27. Orthopaedic Injury : Knee, Tibia and Fibula	124
28. Orthopaedic Injury : Ankle and Foot	129
Analgesia and Sedation	
29. Management of Acute Pain	136
30. Pharmacology of Analgesic Agents	142
31. Procedural Sedation and Analgesia	148
Mental Health Emergencies	
32. Mental Health Primary Assessment	160
33. Mental Health : Risk Assessment	162
34. Management of Severe Agitation	165
35. Mental Health : Medical Clearance	174
36. Mental Health Secondary Survey	177
37. Mental Health : Suicidal Patient	179

Paediatric Emergencies

38. The Seriously ill Child	184
39. Advanced Paediatric Life Support	190
40. Febrile Child	195
41. Apparent Life Threatening Event (ATLE)	200
42. Upper Airway Emergencies	202
43. The Wheezing Child	207
44. Paediatric Meningitis	213
45. The Fitting Child	218
46. Paediatric Abdominal Pain	222
47. Gastroenteritis	229
48. Paediatric Trauma	236
49. Closed Head Injury	242
50. Child Abuse / Non-Accidental Injury	247

Geriatric Emergencies

51. Introduction to Geriatric Emergencies	252
52. Abdominal Pain in the Elderly	256

Medical Emergencies

53. Sepsis	260
54. Common Infectious Disease	264
55. Anaphylaxis	269
56. Asthma	273
57. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	278
58. Community Acquired Pneumonia	281
59. Pneumothorax	283
60. Pulmonary Embolism and DVT	287
61. Reversal of Anticoagulation	292
62. Electrolyte Emergencies	294
63. Diabetic Emergencies	299
64. Acute Confusion	303
65. Collapse - Syncope	306
66. Assessment of Acute Headache	310
67. Management of Acute Headache	314
68. Stroke and TIA	319
69. Dizziness and Vertigo	326
70. Seizures	330
71. Assessment of Chest Pain	334
72. Low Risk Chest Pain Pathways	340
73. Acute Myocardial Infarction	342
74. Angina Pectoris	349
75. Acute Pulmonary Oedema	351
76. Approach to Cardiac Arrhythmias	356
77. Management of Cardiac Arrhythmias	358
78. Pharmacology of Cardiac Arrhythmias	363

Surgical Emergencies	
79. Acute Abdominal Pain	366
80. ENT Emergencies : Ear / Throat	374
81. ENT Emergencies : Nose / Sinuses	378
82. Eye Emergencies (1) : Acute Red Eye	382
83. Eye Emergencies (2) : Visual Loss	388
84. Eye Emergencies (1) : Acute Red Eye	391
Obstetric Emergencies	
85. Pregnancy : Clinical Assessment	398
86. Early Pregnancy Complications	402
87. Late Pregnancy Complications	409
88. Labour and Delivery	414
89. Newborn Resuscitation	422
90. Trauma in Pregnancy	427
Toxicological / Environmental Emergencies	
91. Acute Poisoning	432
92. Paracetamol Poisoning	437
93. Illicit Substance Abuse	442
94. Poisoning with Alcohols	447
95. Alcohol Withdrawal	449
96. Carbon Monoxide Exposure	454
97. Envenomation – Snake Bite	456
98. Envenomation – Spider Bite	460
99. Heat Stroke	463
100. Hypothermia	467
101. Drowning	471
Selected Readings / Resources	475
Glossary of Abbreviations	476
Index	479
Bibliography	488
Clinical Tools / Drug Doses	495
1. Procedure for the Primary Survey	496
2. Rapid Sequence Intubation : Checklists/Drugs	497
3. Ventilator Settings	502
4. Adult Critical Care Drug Infusions	504
5. Trauma : Clinical Clearance of the C-spine	506
6. Paediatric Resuscitation	507
7. Paediatric intubation	508
8. Paediatric Emergency Drugs	509
9. Paediatric Intranasal Sedation / Analgesia	510
10. Paediatric IV Rehydration	511
11. Guideline Index	512

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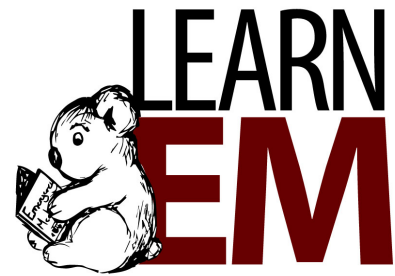
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Preface

The first edition of ABCDs was written in 1997/98 in response to requests from medical and nursing staff for an easily readable, concise and practically based textbook on emergency medical practice. Many of the standard texts at the time were perceived as either too long and detailed or written in a format ideal as a reference but difficult to read. The aim was to produce a text that sifts through the extensive body of medical knowledge to provide clinicians with the core concepts and foundations for managing a wide range of emergency presentations in a variety of clinical settings.



With 101 chapters and more than 50 clinical guidelines the book has grown over the past 20 years to become a learning resource for those training in acute care and a clinical tool that assists with the delivery of bedside care to the acutely ill or injured. The eighth edition incorporates the recent developments in acute care over the past 4 years and features 16 new chapters including bedside emergency ultrasound, management of critical bleeding, preparation of the critically ill patient for transfer or retrieval, emergency disaster management, paediatric closed head injury, geriatric emergencies, low risk chest pain pathways, ENT emergencies, hypothermia and drowning.

A major focus of the revision process has been to increase the usefulness of the book at the bedside and provide immediate access to information that assists with the management of the critically ill patient. The book is available for the first time as an eBook and a special section has been created (at the end of the book) providing access to clinical tools and drug information required in the management of critically ill adults and children.

The book is designed as an aid to learning and continuing professional development in emergency medicine. Each chapter provides a succinct, easily readable overview that aims to provide all the critical information required to understand a topic and able to be read in the time it takes to drink a cup of coffee. We imagine readers pausing for a moment (perhaps after a shift or on a day off) to read a chapter or two related a recent case they have encountered. This reflective approach to learning is often extremely effective and provides an almost effortless way of growing clinical knowledge by linking the information discussed in the chapter to the individual experience.

As medicine is best appreciated (and in truth best learned) through clinical cases that challenge us to think and problem solve the book provides this opportunity using the *LearnEM Website* (www.learnem.com.au). The website is designed to bridge the gap between the written text and clinical practice. The eLearning modules allow readers to explore an emergency topic through interactive clinical cases, eTutorials, procedural videos, discussion of recent research, interpretation of laboratory tests, imaging and ECGs and to self-test their understanding of a topic through graded quizzes. There are now over 30 courses on the LearnEM website covering everything from resuscitation through to emergency obstetrics through to eye emergencies through to ECG interpretation. New courses in major trauma, ENT, toxicology, critical care medicine and wound management will be added over the coming 12 months. In this edition, we have divided the book into 10 sections and suggested some of the courses on the website that may be useful for a specific topic. It is our hope that readers will find these courses provide a useful learning tool for their continued medical education.

Many areas of emergency medicine lack a single approach to care and often depend on the (local) resources available to the clinician. The ABCDs of Emergency Medicine began as an attempt to provide a practical approach to clinical care that considers this variation in resources and skills. It is our hope that this new edition continues to fulfil this role, fosters a deeper understanding of emergency care among health professionals and assists them with their work with the acutely ill or injured.

Peter Stuart, Jason Bament

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