



Continuing medical education book reviews

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Journal Title: Clinical Cardiology

Volume: Volume 22, Number 10

Publisher: Wiley Open Access: Various Creative Commons Licenses | 1999-10, Pages 684-684

Type of Work: Article | Final Publisher PDF

Publisher DOI: 10.1002/clc.4960221020

Permanent URL: <https://pid.emory.edu/ark:/25593/v1bk9>

Final published version: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/clc.4960221020>

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Accessed September 15, 2024 10:58 PM EDT

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Video Seminars on Transesophageal Echocardiography

Edited by Terence D. Rafferty

Echocardiography, A Subsidiary of Dynamedia, Inc., Silver Spring, Md. (1999)

126 pages and eight 45-minute to 1-hour video tapes, \$542.00

ISBN: 1-893508-00-5 (NTSC video format)

1-893508-01-3 (PAL video format)

Video Seminars on Transesophageal Echocardiography is a book (126 pages) and eight 45-minute to 1-hour video tapes written by a cardiac anesthesiologist. It focuses on transesophageal echocardiography (TEE) performed intra-operatively. There are three chapters on TEE techniques (transverse, vertical, and oblique plane imaging), four on applications (mitral valve, mitral valve repair, and orthopedic and critical care settings), and a self-assessment test.

The text and video tapes provide a comprehensive and practical introduction to the field of intra-operative TEE. The intention is to simplify TEE by using techniques to analyze and explain the patient examination process. The focus is primarily on the intra-operative evaluation of the mitral valve. A particularly useful chapter is the evaluation of the various regions of the mitral valve, including the identification of each of the scallops of the two leaflets. The 20 mitral valve repair cases presented are excellent, especially those showing the results of the different types of repair.

The real success of this book lies in the many clear illustrations of mitral valve anatomy and pathology that are shown both in the text and on the videos. Since echocardiography is primarily a visual modality, the video tapes are an excellent enhancement to the text. Despite excellent descriptions in the text, however, I sometimes found myself wanting to see better use of the video medium. Too often the author is shown simply talking, whereas the echocardiograms or animated illustrations to which he is referring could have been shown simultaneously on the video tape. He also could have been an insert while most of the screen showed the echocardiograms. In addition, a more effective video presentation would have included still-frames and better labels with arrows to identify the particular abnormalities being addressed. Nevertheless, this video tape series will enhance the understanding of intra-operative TEE for both cardiologists and anesthesiologists and permit a more effective working relationship with the cardiac surgeon.

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