BOOK REVIEW

Article 990227

ECGs Made Easy, 3rd edition.

Barbara Aehlert, RN, BSPA, Southwest EMS Education Inc.

Mosby – Elsevier 2005. 368 Pages.

ISBN: 0 323 03969 3.

RRP: \$80.00 AUD

(Included with text: Companion CD-Rom, Pocket Reference Guide and Heart Rate Calculator Ruler).

Emma Brandenburg BN, RN

Registered Nurse, Emergency Department, Logan Hospital,
Queensland, Australia

For the novice practitioner ECG interpretation and recognition can pose quite a challenge. *ECGs Made Easy 3rd edition* is geared for use by paramedics, nursing and medical students, and other health personnel who wish to master the skill of ECG recognition. Throughout the text there is a clear emphasis on straightforward explanations and practical application, it is presented in a clear and logical format, and further supported with the use of tables, diagrams and explanations.

This edition features more practice ECG strips, extensive review exercises and learning activities and three practical companion tools: CD-ROM, pocket reference book and heart rate calculator ruler. The text uses a clear plain English approach to dialogue, yet is comprehensive, which permits its use as a stand alone recourse or as a companion text for ECG courses.

Each ECG rhythm is discussed and accompanied by a sample rhythm strip. Possible clinical signs and symptoms appropriate to each rhythm are also presented. If appropriate, current recommended treatments and interventions are provided. Throughout the text the authors have supplied helpful hints and explanations. Many accompany comprehensive illustrations; others appear in margins highlighting important points to enhance understanding. Both metric and imperial measurements are provided allowing the text to be used in many countries.

The text is divided logically into appropriate sections, the first of which discusses anatomy and physiology of the heart. The second section details the basic electrophysiology of the heart and introduces the analysis of a rhythm strip. The book moves on to sinus mechanisms in section 3, atrial rhythms in section 4, junctional and ventricular rhythms in sections 5 and 6. For each rhythm the text asks and answers the following questions – How do I recognise it?; What causes it?; and What do I do about it? Atrioventricular (AV) blocks and pacemaker rhythms are then discussed before the text examines the 12 lead ECG.

Author(s): Emma Brandenburg

Review activities at the end of each chapter are provided to enhance understanding and to cement learning objectives. The activities include multiple choice tests, crosswords, matching, labelling and short answer questions. The answers are provided in the back of the book along with a comprehensive glossary.

ECGs Made Easy 3rd edition is a comprehensive text for novice practitioners seeking to learn or better understand the advanced skill of ECG recognition. Although I would be hesitant to claim that the learning is 'made easy' the tools provided along with the text, coupled with the clear and concise presentation, makes this book a valuable tool for nurses, paramedics, medical students and other healthcare personnel interested in achieving this skill.

This book is available through:

Elsevier Australia

Ph: 1800 263 951 Email: service@elsevier.com.au Website: www.elsevier.com.au