Cardiovascular Nursing Practice: A Comprehensive Resource Manual and Study Guide for Clinical Nurses

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Cardiovascular Nursing Practice, by Jacobson, Marzlin, and Webner, is a comprehensive reference for the complex care needs of cardiovascular patients. The book contains 18 chapters that are dedicated to cardiac anatomy and physiology, assessment, oxygenation, hemodynamics, and cardiac rhythm analysis along with 12-lead electrocardiography interpretation and cardiovascular drugs.

The book covers the spectrum of medical and surgical cardiovascular diseases and interventions, with additional chapters dedicated to risk factor prevention, acute coronary syndrome, heart failure, cardiomyopathy, electrical management of dysrhythmias, pacemakers, cardiac catheterization and interventional cardiology, cardiovascular surgery, and peripheral and cerebral vascular states. The authors also include chapters on noncardiac disease states that affect cardiac patients. Topics in these chapters include pulmonary pathophysiology, sepsis, and renal and electrolyte abnormalities.

Each chapter includes a combination of prose, illustrations, bulleted text, “Linking Knowledge to Practice” sections, patient and family teaching points, self-assessment questions, and references. The “Linking Knowledge to Practice” sections provide pertinent and practical clinical application information that links complex physiological issues to clinical practice. However, there is no consistent format as to how this information is presented in different chapters. In some chapters the “Linking Knowledge to Practice” content is listed at the end of the chapter whereas in other chapters it is interspersed throughout the body of the chapter. These links provide key practical application information and their importance may often be lost when interspersed throughout the chapter.

In the preface of the book, the authors state that this book is targeted to clinical nurses who work in a variety of settings as well as educators and advanced practice cardiovascular clinical nurse specialists. The content of each chapter ranges from basic to advanced knowledge. This is especially illustrated in the 12-lead section, in which content of the chapter may be cumbersome to novice nurses who may need more supplemental information.

Overall, the strengths of the book include the many illustrations that enhance text descriptions of anatomy, physiology, and complex pathophysiological concepts and tables that summarize the major points of each chapter. For example, the Cardiovascular Drugs chapter provides comprehensive tables of the reviewed materials.

Some chapters include patient and family teaching points that are of value to clinical practitioners. This is best evidenced in the Acute Coronary Syndrome and Heart Failure chapters. The “Test Your Knowledge” section, at the end of each chapter, helps the clinical practitioner assess their grasp of key concepts from each chapter.

The Glossary and Abbreviations sections at the end of the book provide the reader with definitions of key concepts for quick reference. The references at the end of each chapter are current, mainly from 2002 to present, and may be used to help identify supplemental information.

The variety of the formats (prose, bullet points, illustrations, tables and test questions) of the book is comprehensive and appeals to a variety of learning styles.
the information presented in *Cardiovascular Nursing Practice* offer readers different options for mastering these topics. However, although comprehensive, this book lacks a thorough discussion related to patient and family psychosocial needs.

In summary the authors have compiled a practical and comprehensive resource for novice cardiovascular clinical nurses as well as advanced practice cardiovascular clinical nurse specialists. *Cardiovascular Nursing Practice* is a valuable reference for practicing nurses as well as nurses who are preparing for a certification examination.

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