

Book review

The Pharmacology of Inhaled Anesthetics*, by Edmond I. Eger II, James B. Eisenkraft, and Richard B. Weiskopf (USA, 2002. 327 pp.)

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When I opened this book, I noticed that the letters were smaller and the space between the lines was wider than in other medical articles and textbooks. These things bothered me at first, but soon I got used to them and found the book easy to read.

I studied under Dr. Eger, one of the coauthors of this book, as the first Japanese Research Trainee Fellow in his laboratory about 30 years ago. He was already a famous researcher, and he also was very popular among students, interns, and residents as a teacher. There were many students and anesthesiologists around him whenever he was in the operating room or in a meeting.

When I look back on those days, I am quite impressed with the kindness that Dr. Eger showed me during my stay at his laboratory. Dr. Eger was working a book titled *Anesthetic Uptake and Action* [1]. He took time to explain the manuscript of the book to me every week and to answer my many questions, although in those days I did not understand the mechanism of inhaled anesthetics and had only a limited knowledge of the English language. His descriptions of the gas/blood partition coefficient and the oil/gas partition coefficient were especially valued and even now seem to be far superior to those in any other medical articles or textbooks.

The present book is sponsored by the Educational Foundation. There are multiple-choice questions at the end of each chapter to help readers to prepare for tests given by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists for continuing education credit. These questions

are informative and correspond to the targets presented in each chapter.

The book focuses on sevoflurane, isoflurane, and desflurane, the typical inhaled anesthetics at present, including their physical properties and their effects on respiration, circulation, and various organs. It also compares the clinical applications of inhaled anesthetics with those of intravenous anesthetics such as propofol. What distinguishes this book from others is that each chapter presents data from Dr. Eger's basic and clinical research and describes the advantages and disadvantages of anesthetics based on this data. It is surprising that Dr. Eger quotes references not only from Europe and the United States, but also from Japan (*Masui, the Journal of Anesthesia*).

I am convinced that this book will be a beneficial introductory textbook for students and residents who want to learn about inhaled anesthetics, as well as a specialized book for anesthesiologists.

Baxter Healthcare Corporation, through the Dannemiller Memorial Educational Foundation, has underwritten the cost of publication with an unrestricted educational grant. The book and accompanying DVDs are available at no cost. To obtain them, academic programs must commit to the use of the book and DVDs as a formal part of their program. Individual practitioners may request the book and DVDs for personal educational use; however, only a limited number of books and DVDs are available for this purpose. In Japan requests should be directed to Mr. Maulik Nanavaty at Baxter Healthcare International, telephone +81-3-5213-5615, fax +81-3-5213-5111, e-mail nanavam@baxter.com

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Reference

1. Eger EI II (1975) *Anesthetic uptake and action*. Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore