

PREFACE

Pharmacologically induced sedation has become pervasive throughout medical practice to accomplish diagnostic and minor therapeutic procedures effectively and humanely. As diagnostic techniques and technical procedures become more complex, the need for sedation in patients with varied co-morbid conditions, in diverse settings produces a series of questions regarding safety and effectiveness. The administration of sedation and analgesia for diagnostic and therapeutic procedures has therefore evolved into a unique discipline that is practiced by clinicians with varying skills and training. Disparities in sedation practices have led regulatory agencies to mandate that patients receive the same standard of care regardless of the location in which the care is provided within an institution. To ensure that the standard of care is of high quality, institutions are required to develop guidelines for the practice of sedation, ensure that these guidelines are followed, and provide quality data and outcome measures. In addition, practitioners who administer sedatives and analgesics specifically for a diagnostic and/or a therapeutic procedure require specific credentials for this practice.

It is the intent of *Sedation and Analgesia for Diagnostic and Therapeutic Procedures* to review sedation and analgesia from a wide variety of perspectives starting with the basic neurobiology and physiology of the sedated state, proceeding through clinical guidelines and practices, and concluding with a section on quality-outcome measures and processes. The practical aspects of this book have been further emphasized by incorporating a series of tables and figures in each chapter that highlight protocols, regulatory requirements, recommended dosages of pharmacologic agents, monitoring requirements, and quality assurance tools. The target audience for this text spans multiple disciplines that range from investigators, physicians, and nurses to hospital administrators.

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