

# Preface

Preoperative risk assessment and perioperative management are important aspects of clinical practice in internal medicine. Whereas surgeons and anesthesiologists spend most of their time caring for patients in the perioperative period, many primary-care physicians and hospitalists may feel inadequately trained or uncomfortable in this setting.

The goal of this book is to provide a streamlined approach to the medical aspects of perioperative care, limiting content to make it an easily readable and clinically useful guide. It is intended for use by hospitalists, general internists and specialists, anesthesiologists, surgeons, and residents in training who are involved in the care of patients before and after surgery.

The book is divided into four parts. The first part addresses general aspects of perioperative care, preoperative testing, medication management, and prophylaxis (surgical site infection, venous thromboembolism, endocarditis). The second part highlights aspects specific to various types of surgery, including patient- and surgery-specific risk factors and procedural complications. The third part reviews preoperative evaluation and perioperative management of coexisting medical conditions that affect surgical risk. The last part covers evaluation and management of some of the more frequently encountered postoperative complications.

Because medicine is a constantly changing field, new information may affect some of the recommendations in this book. The information contained in this book is based on what the authors felt was the best available evidence at the time. Additionally, errors, inaccuracies, and omissions may inadvertently occur despite the care that has been taken to avoid them. The reader is advised to use sound clinical judgment and to confirm all doses of medications before prescribing them.

I hope that you will find this information useful in your clinical practice and hope that it will lead to improved perioperative patient care.

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