

Preface

Complications of critical illness, both iatrogenic and non-iatrogenic, are common in the intensive care unit (ICU) and can lead to increased morbidity and mortality. Thus, it is extremely important to understand the nature of complications and how to best prevent and treat them when caring for critically ill patients. The first six chapters of this book thoroughly discuss these complications and are organized by organ system (cardiac, renal, neurologic, hematologic, gastrointestinal, and nutritional/endocrinologic). These chapters are followed by a chapter focusing on procedural complications. Finally, the book concludes with a chapter on preventing complications with meticulous supportive care and systems-based considerations in the ICU. Drug-related complications are mentioned throughout the book in relevant chapters. The topics covered in this book will help readers gain understanding of when to anticipate and how to prevent a wide array of potential complications of critical illness. When complications are encountered, these chapters also include detailed information on diagnosis, management, and prognostication.

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