

Preface to the Fifth Edition



It is a great honor for us to join Dr. Sanjay Datta in presenting the fifth edition of *The Obstetric Anesthesia Handbook*. As former students and now colleagues of our mentor, we have attempted to update this classic and widely read book to reflect the constantly evolving face of obstetric anesthesiology. It is astounding to envision the initial writing of this text, nearly 20 years ago, in an era before the ubiquitous availability of online search tools, downloadable papers, and searchable textbooks. The early editions were formed predominantly out of Dr. Datta's personal command of the field, its literature, and his personal teaching files. Many benefited from the depth and breadth of his wisdom presented in the original *Handbook*, and it is now our privilege to help pass on this work to the next generation of residents, fellows, and obstetric anesthesia practitioners around the world. We have attempted to retain the compact style of the original single-author version, while adding some newer material, reorganizing some chapters to enhance their utility, updating references, and revising some figures and appendices. We hope you will find it as helpful in your practice as it is in ours.

Scott Segal, MD
Bhavani Shankar Kodali, MD

Preface to the First Edition



One of the major “perks” of an academic anesthesiologist is the opportunity to interact with residents and fellows. Most of them are bright, energetic, and hardworking individuals. During my professional life, I enjoyed my dealings with this special group, and their enthusiasm in obstetric anesthesia is the basis for the germination of this project.

Parturients are different from their nonpregnant counterparts in various ways. Their expectations, demands, and needs make obstetric anesthesia more challenging and also gratifying. This book basically deals with these aspects at a level that I found stimulating to the residents as well as fellows.

There are 19 chapters in this book that address the various aspects of maternal physiology, perinatal pharmacology, and, ultimately, anesthetic techniques for different procedures; my hope is that this is done in a concise manner. Every effort has been made to discuss the controversial issues of anesthetic techniques covering the majority of problems that might arise.

It is my deepest desire that this book be both helpful and stimulating to residents, fellows, and my contemporaries. To this end, periodic updates of this manual will be made to keep its contents current and to address topics of interest and controversy.

I want to express my gratitude to a few individuals without whom this project would remain incomplete. My thanks are directed to Dr. Knapp for his very eloquently expressed views regarding medicolegal aspects of obstetric anesthesia. My special thanks go to Ms. Vehring, whose editorial assistance was extremely necessary. Finally, I must also express my gratitude to Ms. Racke for her graphic illustrations and Ms. Russo and Ms. Spelling for secretarial help.

Sanjay Datta, MD, F.F.A.R.C.S. (Eng)



<http://www.springer.com/978-0-387-88601-5>

Obstetric Anesthesia Handbook
Datta, S.; Kodali, B.S.; Segal, S.
2010, VII, 470 p. 70 illus., Softcover
ISBN: 978-0-387-88601-5