Preface

Pediatric cardiac intensive care patients pose special challenges to those practitioners caring for them.

The primary purpose of this textbook is to provide the health care practitioner with an overview of both the medical and surgical facets in caring for pediatric patients with congenital or acquired cardiac disease.

This book conceals a multitude of topics that may be encountered when caring for children in a cardiac intensive care setting. The first part of the text covers general aspects ranging from mechanical ventilation and cardiac anesthesia, sedation and pain management, to cardiopulmonary bypass, cardiac catheterization, echocardiography, in addition to describing the special monitoring required for pediatric cardiac patients. It also includes important recent developments in assessing and reporting risk factors.

The next sections address specific cardiac anomalies including acyanotic defects, right and left obstructive heart lesions, atrio-ventricular valve anomalies, vascular lesions, pulmonary hypertension, cardiomyopathies, pericardial diseases, and other complex heart defects. Specific chapters are dedicated to mechanical assistance, renal replacement therapy, transplant, arrhythmias, as well as the ethical and legal issues that involve the discontinuation of support of patients.

The last section reviews other challenging non-cardiac problems that caregivers in charge of pediatric cardiac patients have to face on a regular basis, including matters related to respiratory, gastrointestinal, nutrition, hematologic, renal and neurological systems, infectious disease, and skin protection.

A unique aspect of this text is the inclusion of drawings and descriptions of cardiac anomalies which serves as a valuable teaching and learning tool for cardiac intensivists, surgeons, fellows, residents, and nurses.

The editors sincerely acknowledge and express their gratefulness to the collaborating authors who were the successful artisans of this project.

It is our hope that practitioners will find this text useful in achieving the ultimate goal of providing the most superior quality of care to their pediatric cardiac intensive care patients.
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