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BOOK REVIEW

Handbook of Blood Transfusion Therapy 2nd Edition

Printed 1995 by: John Wiley & Sons Limited
 Baffins Lane
 Chichester
 West Sussex PO19 1UD
 England

Editor: J.A.F. Napier

 498 pages, various figures and tables
 £ 65.00 Hardback
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The author emphasizes that after eight years a second edition has become necessary, since the practice of blood transfusion has changed so much. Importantly the following points are being emphasized: the need for information about risks and benefits, the increasing need for quality standards, alternatives to conventional transfusion like autologous blood salvage and reutilization, pharmacological methods for reducing surgical blood loss, recombinant haemopoietic growth factors to influence blood product use.

The book consists of the following chapters: Blood components and products, blood group antigens and antibodies, blood transfusion materials and their uses, medical and surgical transfusion problems, pediatric transfusion, tissue antigens, transfusion complications, organization and management. Each chapter in turn contains a comprehensive and detailed reference section.

Hemorheological points are addressed in the sections on therapeutic apheresis of the hyperviscosity syndrome of malignant proteinemias as well as in the sections on autologous transfusion and blood conservation and preoperative hemodilution to decrease blood viscosity.

In the section on harmful effects to transfusion and the question of colloid solutions for plasma volume expansion no mention is made about viscosity.

Clinical Hemorheology should take note of Blood Transfusion Therapy, which in this book is being addressed very competently.

Siegfried Witte