

ABC of Major Trauma

British Medical Association, London, 1991, 117 pages. £15.00

Having read each individual article as it was published in the *BMJ* it is a delight to see that they have been bound in a very handy volume. The chapters are well organized, easy to read and concise. The chapter 'Initial Assessment and Management' deals with the multiply injured patient in a logical, orderly way and is very carefully divided into a primary and secondary survey. There are very important chapters dealing solely with management of the upper airway, management of hypovolaemic shock, radiological assessment, trauma in pregnancy, paediatric trauma, severe burns and blast and gun shot injuries. The chapter 'Transport of Injured Patients' is very apt as it relates to an extremely important aspect of trauma care dealing with the ABC of trauma through to the different methods of transportation in a very helpful way. It is very fitting to see that major accidents are dealt with properly right through from initiation of the major accident procedure to hospital organization. Very good simple advice for medical attendants is given in 'Handling Distressed Relatives'. The individual chapters dealing with trauma to the thorax, head, spine and spinal cord, abdomen, urinary tract and limbs are all of high quality.

Last but not least the chapter by Professor Yates deals with the extremely important area of injury scoring. He states that an attempt must be made to code the trauma insult numerically before commenting on treatment. He also makes clear that there are two seriously impaired survivors for every person who dies from trauma.

This book is an absolute necessity for all those involved in trauma from the very junior to the very senior. It should also be found on the book shelves of all accident departments.

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