ECGs Made Easy - Book And Pocket Reference Package, 5e
Synopsis

Known for its conversational style, Barbara Aehlert’s ECGs Made Easy offers clear explanations and plenty of practice exercises that make it easier than ever to understand and interpret basic dysrhythmias. Each ECG rhythm includes a sample rhythm strip and a discussion of possible patient symptoms and general treatment guidelines. Student-friendly features include ECG Pearl boxes with insights based on real-world experience, and Drug Pearl boxes highlighting medications used to treat dysrhythmias. This package includes a handy pocket reference for on-the-go access to the most essential information, plus a plastic heart rate calculator ruler for fast interpretation of rhythms. Clear ECG discussions highlight what students need to know about ECG mechanisms, rhythms, and heart blocks: How Do I Recognize It? What Causes It? What Do I Do About It?

Chapter objectives and key terms focus students on the most important information. ECG Pearl boxes give useful hints for interpreting ECGs, such as the importance of the escape pacemaker. Drug Pearl boxes highlight various medications used to treat dysrhythmias. Introduction to the 12-Lead ECG chapter provides all the basics for this advanced skill, including determining electrical axis, ECG changes associated with myocardial ischemia and infarction, bundle branch block, and other conditions. A comprehensive post-test is included at the end of the book to evaluate student comprehension. A heart rate calculator ruler is included with each textbook, so students can measure heart rates while practicing ECG recognition. A new two-column design adds visual appeal and makes content easier to read. 49 new anatomical drawings and 51 new skills photos are included, for a total of almost 400 illustrations -- all in full color. Eight new illustrated, step-by-step skills include easy-to-follow instructions for performing basic techniques. Stop and Review chapter quizzes are expanded to include 200 practice ECG tracings, and now include answers at the end of each chapter. Learning objectives are added within text content to emphasize key points.

Book Information

Series: ECG’s Made Easy
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I was issued these books as part of my paramedic program. I haven’t looked at any other books of this type, but I will say that the way the author lays out the different rhythms and covers them in such a way, that it makes it easy for the beginner student to understand. The pocket reference is great and is small enough to carry with you for fast reference. Highly recommended. The helpful pocket manual/text book contents are as follows:

- Chapter 1 Anatomy and Physiology
- Chapter 2 Basic Electrophysiology
- Chapter 3 Sinus Mechanisms
- Chapter 4 Atrial Rhythms
- Chapter 5 Junctional Rhythms
- Chapter 6 Ventricular Rhythms
- Chapter 7 Atrioventricular (AV) Blocks
- Chapter 8 Pacemaker Rhythms
- Chapter 9 Intro to 12 lead ECG

If you have always seen the tele monitors in the hospital and don’t know what the zigzag on it means, this is the book you need when you have to take an intensive critical care course. This was a required text for my critical care course and did a good job shipping it on time. I liked the book and as many times as I’ve studied conduction in my A&P classes, the fact that I’m a physics and chemistry person makes me forget certain stuff in bio. This book does such a good job of explaining conduction in making you really understand what happens in various stages like depolarization and repolarization. I like the approach because you kinda need to know which ions are coming out at each phase so you’ll know when to prescribe a calcium channel blocker for a patient and when to prescribe a class II or III antiarrhythmic. I didn’t get time to use the CD because time moves so fast when you’re under stress but I did love the pocket companion and the only thing is that it doesn’t tell you the treatments in it. You’ll have to look at the big book itself to know how to treat a 3rd degree block. I never thought I’d be able to get the heart blocks down in my head but thanks to this book I did. Just a little thing I’ll share with readers, here’s one way to remember a Wenkenbach. It goes “longer, longer, longer, longer, then you have a Wenkenbach.” The P-r interval keeps getting longer and longer till you finally drop a QRS. My instructor sang it in a silly way and I thought I’d share it. In that way you’ll recognize a Mobitz type I when you see one. I tried different ECG books and this one worked for me.
I did my medical degree back in the 90’s. We had a cardiology professor who told us we were not to use this book The ECG Made Easy, that it was terrible and inaccurate and inadequate and lots of other things that meant we shouldn’t use it. He told us he would fail us if we used this book. For some reason though, despite his and others tutorials and lectures, I could never understand ECGs. I was desperate! So I bought this book. It was small enough to memorise. I set out to memorise it, one to two pages per day. I think it took me a few weeks to do. And it meant I could finally interpret ECGs. I got through my exams, and even better I could still interpret basic ECGs during my intern year. I think what that cardiology professor never understood is that everyone has to start somewhere and if you can master the basics then you have something solid to build on.

The book and pocket reference are both excellent information on interpreting ECGs as well as the significance of abnormal electrolytes. Very well organized.

This book started with the anatomy and physiology of the heart (for those of us who haven’t had A & P in years) which was awesome. It explains it in terms that are understandable for everyone. I love this book.

This book has a lot of pictures of EKG’s and has practice strips to practice analyzing normal and abnormal rythms. It was easy to read and understand.

I had to purchase this for nursing school, but in all honesty I preferred Dubin’s book. I thought it was easier to follow, and covered more of the electrophysiology. This book isn’t bad, it’s just not great.

I have purchases many books from this author. She provides the best resources for cardiology and ACLS review. You must have it.

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