CONTENTS

1. General Considerations 1

• Brief history 1 • Classification 1 • Advantages 3 • Disadvantages 4 • Indications 5 • Contraindications to regional anaesthesia 6 • General principles 7 • Causes of failure of blocks 10

2. Pharmacology of Local Anaesthetics 12

• Use-dependent block 13 • Minimum blocking concentration 13 • Differential neural block 13 • General pharmacology 14 • Lipid solubility 15 • pKa 15 • Protein binding 15 • Effect on blood vessels 16 • Role of alkaline pH adjustment on local anaesthetic block 17 • Ideal characteristics of local anaesthetics 17 • Adverse effects 17 • Systemic toxicity 17 • Local tissue toxicity 19 • Hypersensitivity reactions 19 • Commonly used drugs 21

3. Equipment for Regional Anaesthesia 26

• Equipment for regional anaesthesia 27 • Nerve block needles 27 • Syringes 29 • Peripheral nerve stimulator for nerve blocks 29 • Spinal needle 32 • Epidural needles 34 • Epidural catheter 34 • Epidural filter and syringe 36 • Patient controlled analgesia 36

4. Spinal Anaesthesia 38

• Definition 38 • Anatomical considerations of spine 38 • Indications of spinal anaesthesia 47 • Contraindications of spinal anaesthesia 47 • Physiological effects of spinal analgesia 48 • Advantages of spinal anaesthesia over general anaesthesia 49 • Complications of spinal anaesthesia 50 • Procedures for spinal anaesthesia 58 • Continuous spinal anaesthesia 61 • Spinal neurolytic block 62

5. Epidural Anaesthesia 64

• Anatomy 64 • Site of action of local anaesthetic 65 • Factors controlling the extent of anaesthesia 65 • Epidural block 66 • Spinal/epidural anaesthesia for caesarean section 74 • Preeclampsia and epidural anaesthesia 75

6. Caudal Anaesthesia **76**

• Anatomy 76 • Physiology of caudal block 78 • Indications of caudal block 78 • Contraindications of caudal block 79 • Advantages of caudal anaesthesia 79 • Disadvantages of caudal anaesthesia 80 • Technique of caudal block 80 • Complications of caudal anaesthesia 83 • Dangers of continuous caudal analgesia in obstetric patients 83

7. Intravenous Regional Anaesthesia **85**

• Mechanism of action 86 • Advantages 86 • Disadvantages 87 • Indications 87 • Contraindications 87 • Technique of intravenous regional anaesthesia 87 • Complications 88

8. Nerve Blocks **90**

• Blocks of head and neck 90 • Blocks of thorax, abdomen and perineum 109 • Blocks of upper limb 126 • Blocks of lower limb 142

9. Miscellaneous **160**

• Retrobulbar block 160 • Peribulbar block 162 • Facial nerve block 163 • Topical analgesia of the nasal cavities 164 • Topical analgesia of larynx 164 • Transtracheal technique of topical anaesthesia 164 • Topical analgesia for bronchoscopy 165 • Local infiltration for dental extraction 166 • Topical analgesia of the urethra 167 • Field block for circumcision 167 • Regional refrigeration anaesthesia 168 • Therapeutic nerve blocks 169 • Neurolytic blocks 170 • Diagnostic and therapeutic nerve blocks 170 • Neuraxial opioids 171 • Continuous catheter techniques of nerve blocks 171 • Regional analgesia in normal delivery 174

10. Addendum **176**

• Essential informations 176

Bibliography *187*

Index *189*