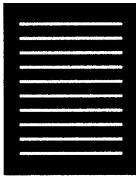


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# Preface

 *THIS BOOK* REPRESENTS A COLLECTIVE EFFORT of many authors to give the reader a theoretical and technical understanding of blood management practices. Blood management encompasses a wide variety of strategies intended to optimize patient outcome, including efforts to reduce or avoid allogeneic transfusion as well as to administer allogeneic components and products most appropriately.

Many of the techniques espoused in this text are not new; yet many of the strategies have not gained widespread usage. The reason for this is threefold. First, little information is available to describe how to perform these techniques. Second, because generally no quality measures have been used with the techniques, adverse patient outcomes have resulted. Finally, many of the techniques are minimally effective as stand-alone strategies.

Perhaps the best “mission statement” for this body of work could be summed up as the following: to emphasize that optimal patient care should involve a combination of blood management strategies rather than just one or two. When multiple strategies are combined, a dramatic synergy can be obtained, often producing surprisingly good patient outcomes. In this author’s experience using combined blood management strategies, patients have tolerated 15- to 20-L blood losses without the need for allogeneic blood components.

This textbook was written in conjunction with a handbook using a large proportion of the same base material. In keeping with a handbook format, the editors of *Perioperative Blood Management: A Physician's Handbook*, 1st edition, condensed many chapters written for this textbook into a more concise, easily accessible resource. Thus, readers of the handbook may find much of the material familiar, including some passages that have been left unchanged. Still, large portions of this book, including many whole chapters—on topics such as program development, cancer, and quality systems, to name a few—are completely new. The expansion of the chapter on blood management in pediatric surgery is particularly significant as it is an area with very little available in the literature. As a whole, this much fuller text is intended to give the interested reader a broader understanding of the concepts and techniques that represent the practice of blood management.

The book is intended to be a reference for surgeons, anesthesiologists, perfusionists, transfusion specialists, clinicians, nurses, and other members of the health-care team who provide care to patients undergoing surgery. It reflects a joint effort by AABB and the Society for the Advancement of Blood Management (SABM). Both organizations have identified the need for a variety of resources to educate health-care providers about the application of these techniques; this book is one tool. The latest advances in blood management may be followed by taking advantage of the offerings from AABB or SABM through their Web sites, annual meetings, and other educational resources.

It has been a rewarding experience to participate in the alliance between AABB and SABM to inform practitioners and help to enrich their expertise in this fascinating area of patient care. Special thanks are due to Laurie Munk and Jay Pennington at AABB for their relentless assistance in producing this valuable resource.

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