

# Emergency Medicine

Equipment, Procedures & Drugs

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# Foreword

Dear Readers,

There are several Emergency Medicine textbooks available to use as a reference in the Emergency Department, but few are applicable and accessible to individuals from varying disciplines and from varying levels of education.

Dr Shakuntala Murty, Professor and Head, Emergency Medicine at St. John's Medical College Hospital, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India, is the chief editor of this unique book, *Emergency Medicine—Equipment, Procedures and Drugs*. It can either be considered as text or a manual, but it is designed to be read and not to be memorized. In essence, it is what we call today, “user friendly.” Presently, there are no books published in India with this focus, philosophy and content, and since access to foreign publications is not universal, it is clear that Dr Murty and her team members have assembled a much-needed manuscript.



While the target readership is practising Emergency Medicine physicians, it is also appropriate for Emergency Medicine Nurses and Emergency Medicine Technicians and even for those who are enrolled in a Bachelor of Science program. As the field of Emergency Medicine expands making it possible for us to provide better care for our communities, it is essential to expand the references as well.

Dr Murty, along with her team members at St John's, have led the way in India creating a world-class Emergency Department and residency program and now a book to add to the resources of those in the Emergency Medicine field. I encourage you to review this book.

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# Preface

Emergency Medicine, as a medical specialty in India, is in its infancy but growing rapidly. Many institutions across the country are conducting postgraduate courses in the discipline, and more are being added every year. The latest government mandate directing all medical colleges to create departments of Emergency Medicine is extremely welcome, as it is a clear signal that this is a very important and much-needed specialty, the development of which is vital to ensure immediate appropriate care to acutely and critically ill patients.

The number of emergency care providers is increasing by leaps and bounds—they may be emergency physicians, emergency room nurses, emergency medicine technicians, first-aid responders or ambulance paramedics. The basic foundation of knowledge of all these categories of providers remains the same—triaging of patients, resuscitation and stabilization of the most critical ones and rapid and safe transport. Beyond the basics lies the vast ocean of detailed knowledge about equipment, life-saving procedures and safe, appropriate use of emergency drugs. Emergency Medicine is not an isolated field—it encompasses at least 20 different disciplines, requires knowledge of acute conditions in all of these disciplines but of course, focuses on immediate assessment and treatment, followed by referral for definitive care. The main skill of the emergency care provider lies in quick evaluation of the patient's status, quick decision-making on what action needs to be taken and immediate performing or administration of the necessary life-saving procedure or drug.

The purpose of this book is to provide exactly that necessary knowledge—how to use equipment which is ubiquitous in every emergency room and most of the ambulances, how to perform life-saving procedures and what complications to look out for, and how to administer the most commonly used emergency drugs safely and effectively. It does not pretend to be a textbook of emergency diagnoses and their treatment, nor is the material on each topic exhaustive. It is meant for quick reading or reference by any provider who needs to gain basic knowledge on the topics which are outlined.

I envision that the book will prove useful to a wide variety of students and professionals, including medical, nursing and allied health sciences students, interns, nurses, emergency medicine technicians, trainee doctors and faculty. Several eminent faculty members from the disciplines of General Medicine, Anesthesia, Critical Care, Emergency Medicine and Forensic Medicine have expended their valuable time and effort in putting together the chapters. Keeping in mind the rapid advancement of medical science, every effort has been made to make sure that current guidelines and recommendations are incorporated.

If the readers consider themselves better equipped to deal with important emergency situations after reading this book, I shall consider its mission has been accomplished.

**Shakuntala Murty**

# Acknowledgments

I am grateful to the Almighty for His abundant grace.

I wish to thank my family, especially my husband Dr A M Kutappa, without whose unstinting and loyal support, this endeavor would not have been possible.

My inspiration over the years has always been my amazing, incomparable, adrenaline-infused team of the department of Emergency Medicine, St. John's Medical College Hospital—may they continue to aim higher and strive harder toward the best possible emergency care for patients.

I humbly acknowledge with gratitude, every single emergency patient who has come through our doors, for each one has taught us and guided us, to be either a better doctor or a better human being.

My heartfelt thanks to all the authors, as without their hard work and co-operation, this work could not have been accomplished.

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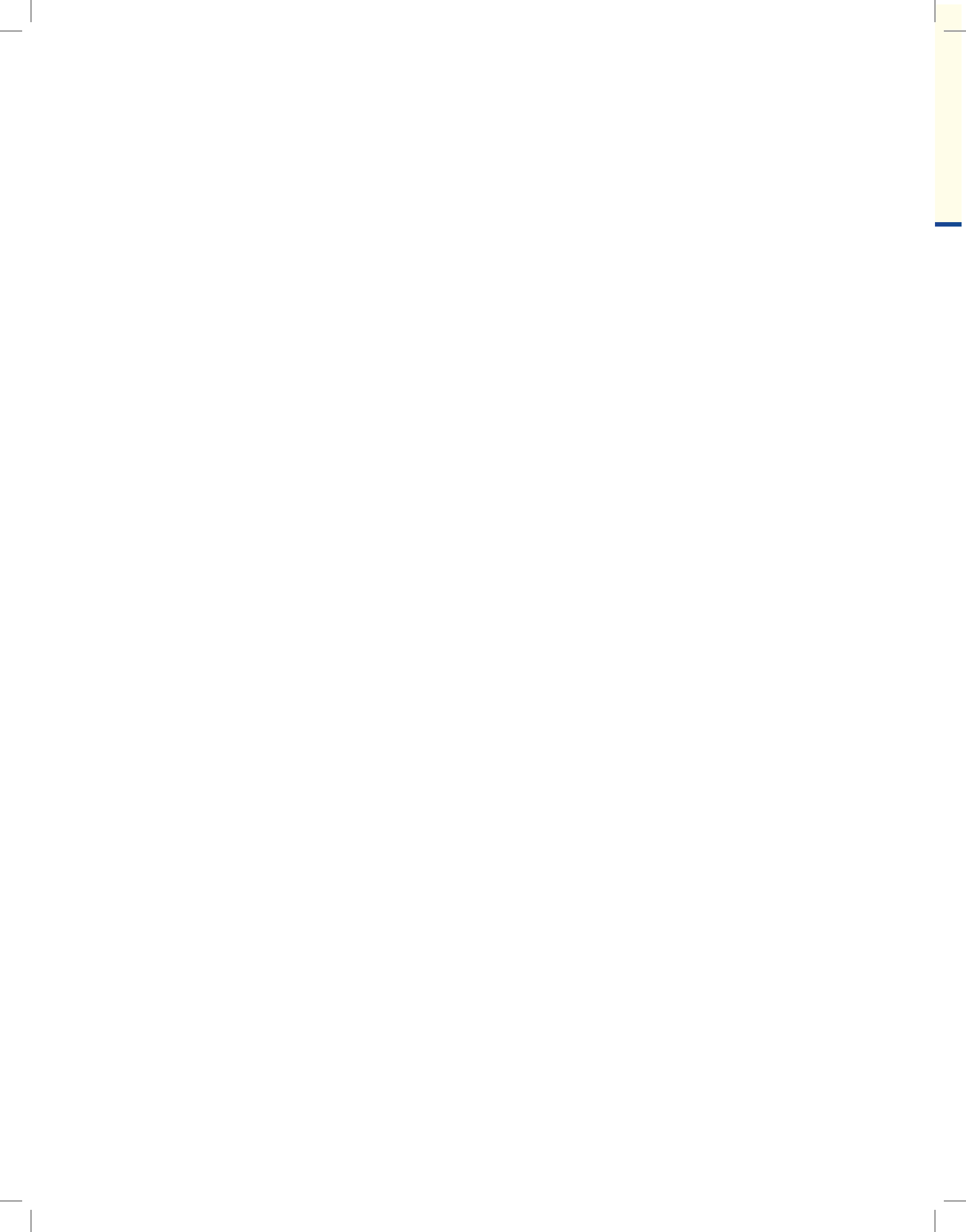
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