

# **Thoracic Anaesthesia (Oxford Specialist Handbooks In Anaesthesia)**

Thoracic anaesthesia is a specialized branch of anaesthesia that deals with the administration of anaesthesia for surgical and non-surgical procedures involving the thoracic cavity. It requires a comprehensive understanding of the anatomy, physiology, and pathophysiology of the thoracic structures. This article provides an overview of thoracic anaesthesia, including the indications, techniques, and complications associated with it.

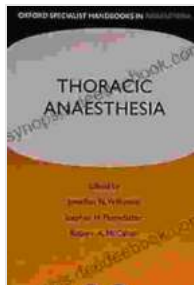
## **Indications for Thoracic Anaesthesia**

Thoracic anaesthesia is indicated for a wide range of thoracic surgeries and procedures, including:

- Lung resection (e.g., lobectomy, pneumonectomy)
- Mediastinal tumour resection
- Oesophagectomy
- Thoracotomy
- Thoracoscopy
- Pleural effusion drainage
- Chest wall reconstruction
- Lung transplantation

## **Techniques of Thoracic Anaesthesia**

The choice of anaesthetic technique for thoracic surgery depends on the type of procedure, the patient's condition, and the anaesthetist's preference. Common techniques used in thoracic anaesthesia include:



## Thoracic Anaesthesia (Oxford Specialist Handbooks in Anaesthesia) by Tom Wolfe

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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### 1. General Anaesthesia

General anaesthesia involves the administration of inhaled or intravenous anaesthetic drugs to induce a state of unconsciousness and analgesia. It provides the most complete control over the patient's airway and allows for muscle relaxation.

### 2. Regional Anaesthesia

Regional anaesthesia involves the injection of local anaesthetics to block pain signals from a specific region of the body. Common techniques used in thoracic anaesthesia include:

- Thoracic epidural anaesthesia: This involves placing a catheter in the epidural space to deliver local anaesthetics to the nerves supplying the thorax.
- Paravertebral block: This involves injecting local anaesthetics directly into the paravertebral space alongside the thoracic vertebrae.

### **3. Combined Anaesthesia**

Combined anaesthesia involves the use of both general and regional anaesthesia. This combination can provide optimal pain relief and reduce the overall requirement for general anaesthetic drugs.

#### **Monitoring During Thoracic Anaesthesia**

During thoracic anaesthesia, the patient is closely monitored using a variety of devices and techniques to assess physiological parameters such as:

- Heart rate and rhythm
- Blood pressure
- Respiratory rate and oxygen saturation
- End-tidal carbon dioxide (EtCO<sub>2</sub>)
- Neuromuscular function

#### **Complications of Thoracic Anaesthesia**

Thoracic anaesthesia is generally a safe procedure, but potential complications can occur, including:

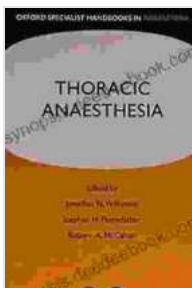
- Hypoxia (low oxygen levels)

- Hypotension (low blood pressure)
- Cardiac arrhythmias
- Pulmonary oedema
- Pneumothorax (collapsed lung)
- Postoperative pain
- Phrenic nerve palsy

## Postoperative Care

After thoracic surgery, the patient is transferred to a recovery room or intensive care unit for monitoring and pain management. Chest tubes may be inserted to drain any fluid or air that accumulates in the pleural space. Physical therapy may be required to help the patient regain lung function and mobility.

Thoracic anaesthesia is a complex and challenging specialty that requires a high level of expertise and knowledge. It plays a crucial role in the management of patients undergoing thoracic surgeries and procedures. By understanding the indications, techniques, and potential complications of thoracic anaesthesia, healthcare professionals can optimize patient outcomes and ensure a safe and successful anaesthesia.

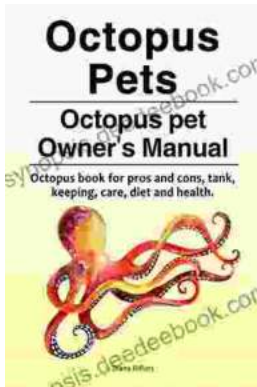


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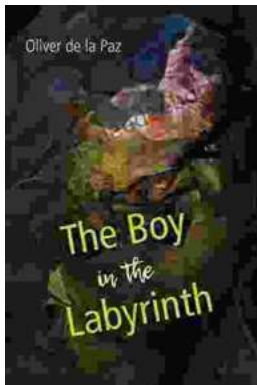
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