

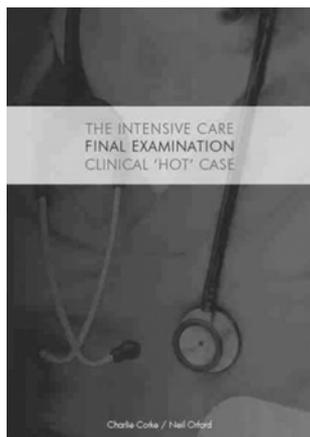
The intensive care final examination clinical "hot" case

Reviewed by Stephen Warrillow

The intensive care final examination clinical "hot" case. Charlie Corke, Neil Orford. York, UK: Erudite Medical Books, 2009 (DVD, A\$40, NZ\$49). Available at: <http://www.eruditemedicalbooks.com>

Success in the final part of the fellowship examination of the CICM (College of Intensive Care Medicine of Australia and New Zealand) requires much knowledge, clinical expertise and technical proficiency, as well as excellent communication skills. The examination is a comprehensive evaluation of many of the most important domains of advanced critical care practice and helps ensure the high levels of professional performance of Australasian intensive care specialists. Many trainees in intensive care medicine find preparing for this examination daunting. For supervisors, too, it can be challenging to provide programs that fully equip trainees for all elements of the examination. Advanced trainees in intensive care medicine come from a variety of backgrounds, including internal medicine, anaesthesia and emergency medicine. All come with particular skills and strengths, as well as knowledge gaps or variations in clinical problem-solving abilities that reflect their personal attributes and previous training.

The "hot" case component of the examination has often been described by trainees as one of the most difficult to prepare for. It generally consists of a "real-life" ICU patient with a range of important clinical problems that the candidate must carefully evaluate and report on before discussing the approach to ongoing investigation and management. Over the years, regular feedback from examiners indicates that performance on the hot case varies markedly. To help trainees prepare for this part of the examination, intensive care physicians Charlie Corke and Neil Orford have



produced a DVD that demonstrates a solid approach to common hot-case scenarios that often appear in the clinical examination. Both authors are experienced critical care clinicians and have contributed greatly to improving education for trainee intensivists over many years. In addition, Corke has been a senior examiner for the final-part examination, and Orford's own performance on the examination merited the Don Harrison Medal.

The DVD demonstrates very competent performances on seven real cases by two trainees who recently passed their own clinical examinations. A separate examiner's commentary supplements the content for each case. This gives an insight into the examiner's own evaluation of the case, prioritised problem list and analysis of each candidate's performance. By viewing a case and listening to the examiner's comments, trainees can learn about the expected standard and obtain useful tips on how to pass this important component of the exam.

Advanced trainees in intensive care medicine will find this DVD a very useful resource when commencing exam preparation. It is not intended to substitute for actual practice on hot cases, but rather provides a helpful starting point on which candidates and their supervisors can base further development. I recommend that all trainees planning to sit the fellowship examination watch this DVD. It is a useful resource for any ICU involved in training and will help supervisors guide their trainees towards optimum examination performance.

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