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CURRENT  
MANAGEMENT  
OF ARRHYTHMIAS

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# CURRENT MANAGEMENT

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# OF ARRHYTHMIAS

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## PREFACE

The purpose of *Current Management of Arrhythmias* is to provide a summary of recent developments in the diagnosis and management of cardiac arrhythmias and to present management strategies for arrhythmias. Arrhythmias have been studied intensely over the past three decades. As a result, significant advances have been made yet vexing controversies have arisen. Since the introduction of such diagnostic techniques as invasive electrophysiologic studies and such therapies as implantable antitachycardia devices, many needs have been answered and many questions have been raised. "Old" questions, such as the ventricular premature complex (VPC) hypothesis, have received new attention. We have addressed the gamut of these issues in our volume.

Chapters are arranged within sections. Sections on basic concepts and diagnostic techniques are followed by discussions of individual arrhythmias, both tachyarrhythmias and bradyarrhythmias. Arrhythmias are then discussed in the context of the specific clinical situations in which they are encountered. Finally, sections on treatment address antiarrhythmic agents and nonpharmacologic therapies, emphasizing indications for specific therapies and the relative role of each drug or modality in the treatment of a specific arrhythmia and in a particular clinical situation. These issues are discussed in several contexts. Different points of view emerge in these discussions, and where controversy exists, I have endeavored to obtain disparate viewpoints. Because differing opinions are expressed by the contributing authors, the index has been meticulously constructed to allow ready reference to the individual discussions of specific arrhythmias and therapies.

This volume has been written by recognized experts in the many areas of arrhythmia management, and its chapters have been edited to read more as a consultation than as a textbook. Each chapter presents a personal point of view, a feature that characterizes books in the Current Therapy series.

I have attempted to make this a volume of value to medical students, internists, and cardiologists.

I am grateful to the contributors to this volume who have produced excellent and timely articles. I learned a great deal while editing this text. I should like particularly to express my appreciation to Ms. Mary E. Mansor and Ms. Kimberly A. LoDico of B. C. Decker for their support and editorial guidance. I am grateful to my secretary, Mrs. Kathleen Freeman, for her enthusiastic and meticulous secretarial assistance in the preparation of the manuscript and in coordinating the preparation of this work.

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Dedicated to my wife, Dona, and our children, Adam, Joshua, and Aimee,  
who are my inspiration.

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