

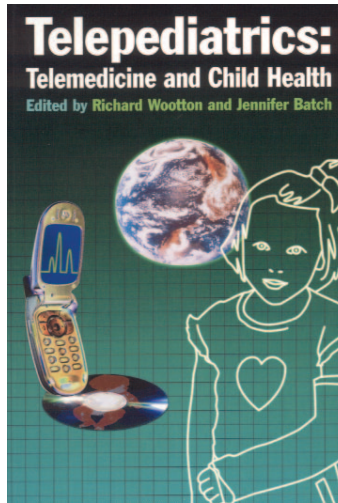
Telepaediatrics: Telemedicine and Child Health

Edited by Richard Wootton, Jennifer Batch
Royal Society of Medicine Press 2005, Pp 345
Price £24.95
ISBN 1853156450

This book tackles a relatively new area of medicine in general. A brief definition of telemedicine is the delivery of health care and exchange of health care information across distances.

Telepaediatrics is quite simply telemedicine related to paediatrics. Telepaediatrics encompasses the delivery of specialist services to regional sites, using techniques such as video-conferencing, e-mail or even the telephone. The main idea behind telepaediatrics is to provide paediatric health care to children from rural or remote areas, where paediatric resources are less available.

The main aim of the book is to explain the different ways in which telepaediatrics is practised clinically (including medical/nursing health care and education). There are plentiful examples of telepaediatrics currently being practised in Australia, Canada and the USA. The current technology



required and used is also touched upon, with some elements of the technology being explained in more detail. The difficulties associated with diagnosing and treating patients using telemedicine, with the specialty clinician not being on-site at the time of the consultation, are also fairly well tackled.

The book is divided into three main sections dealing with (i) Specialist Services, (ii) Primary And Community Services, (iii) Education. The chapters are well written and easy to read. The advantages and disadvantages are well illustrated with case reports.

Overall this book is very readable and covers key areas in paediatrics, which have been helped by the latest advances in technology.

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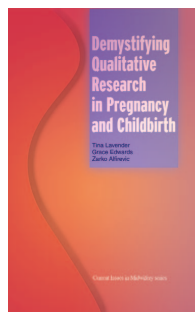
Demystifying Qualitative Research in Pregnancy and Childbirth

Edited by Tina Lavender, Grace Edwards, Zarko Alfievic
Quay Books 2004
Price £24.99
ISBN 1856422593

This book is an excellent introduction to the world of qualitative research. As a novice I found the book invaluable. It gave me a basic understanding of the principles and practice of qualitative research.

The book takes you through all aspects of research from the planning to analysis and critical appraisal of qualitative studies. The incorporation of theoretical and practical examples in each chapter helps the reader explore further. The chapters on analysing qualitative data and embedding a qualitative approach within a quantitative framework were of outstanding quality and will be of immense value to readers.

I strongly recommend this book to anyone who is embarking on qualitative research in pregnancy and childbirth-related issues. This book is an excellent contribution to the research literature and will be useful to obstetri-



cians and midwifery staff involved in qualitative research.

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Differential Diagnosis In Dermatology

By Richard Ashton, Barbara Leppard
Mosby (Forthcoming) August 2005
Price £ 44.95
ISBN 0323030173

It is difficult to ignore a patient's skin regardless of which speciality you work in. However undergraduate dermatology training is limited to an average of 10 days (All Parliamentary Group on Skin, 1998). This book aims to fill this gap by helping you to make a diagnosis and outline a management plan.

The first chapter defines the terms used to describe skin lesions, with plenty of illustrative colour photographs. There is also a brief overview of dermatological investigations and treatments.

The remainder of the book is divided into chapters according to body parts.

There are many algorithms which begin with a description of a skin lesion and lead you to a differential diagnosis. Common conditions are highlighted in a different colour. Each condition is then described with an accompanying colour photograph of the lesion. A new feature of the third edition of this text is the inclusion of treatment options for each diagnosis. The text is clear and thorough with many colour photographs and appropriate illustrations.

Many dermatological texts assume that a diagnosis has already been made. The unique feature of this book is the algorithms which aid diagnosis. It is easy to read with many clear and appropriate photographs. The inclusion of treatment plans makes the book a more practical text. It is an ideal dermatology book for general practitioners, or junior hospital doctors who may be confronted with an unknown skin lesion.

All Parliamentary Group on Skin (1998) Enquiry into the training of health professionals who come into contact with skin diseases. APGS, London

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