

Skeletal Radiography: A concise introduction to projection radiography (2nd edn)

Sheila Bull

Toolkit Publications 2006

Price £39.95. Pp 205

ISBN 0 9551311 0 3

The second edition of *Skeletal Radiography: A concise introduction to projection radiography* is an excellent text written by Sheila Bull. The book is conveniently divided into two sections. The first part deals with an overview of the anatomy of the skeletal system, traumatic injuries, short notes on basic pathology and usefulness of the radiographic examination. The second section deals with radiographical techniques in details.

Simple tables and terminologies generally used in radiography, with a short definition of each, are added where required. Each chapter contains good line

diagrams and pictorial representations supported by X-ray images. There is a chapter on both congenital and acquired bone diseases with brief descriptions of the more common disease entities. This has good referencing and suggestions for further reading.

The second part of the book deals with radiography, divided on a regional anatomical basis. Each section has a table for the area to be radiographed, the commonly used views and their indications. The common injuries are briefly described and radiographical technique for each anatomical part is detailed



with diagrams showing the patient position and description of the centre points. There are useful hints for acquiring the radiographs in difficult non-mobile patients or technically challenging radiographical positions.

The author also mentions the typical effective radiation dose with equivalent natural background radiation in each section.

There are a few minor typographical errors, but these take nothing away from a very well written book, which makes an enjoyable read.

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Oxford Handbook of Respiratory Medicine

Stephen Chapman, Grace Robinson,

John Stradling, Sophie West

Oxford University Press 2005

Price £24.95. Pp 757

ISBN 0198529775

The Oxford Handbook series has done it again. It has produced yet another concise, pocket-sized gem of knowledge and practical tips, it should ideally be found on all respiratory wards. Written by registrars, primarily for registrars, I have also found this book invaluable from first-hand experience as a respiratory senior house officer (SHO).

It is divided into four main sections: clinical presentations, clinical conditions, supportive care and practical procedures. While the first two sections are ideal for registrars in an outpatient clinic setting, they are also designed for SHOs on the wards. Indeed, anyone with an interest in respiratory medicine will benefit from this book, as it is clearly laid out with all the up to date British Thoracic Society guidelines and latest research references included.

These sections detail common topics such as lung cancer, asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, but also cover in some depth less common conditions such as interstitial pneumonias, vasculitides and rare hereditary condi-

tions. Tuberculosis is particularly well covered. Each topic is then sub-divided into sections on diagnosis, investigation and management.

Particularly useful for more junior doctors are the chapters on practical procedures. They cover chest drains, biopsies, pleurodesis and more, including specific details on consenting patients beforehand. These clear instructions and hands-on tips help to make procedures a lot quicker and easier.

Well indexed, clear and concise, this is one of the most useful books I have come across and any aspiring respiratory physician will enjoy it.

Claire Vandeveld, Derby City Hospital,
Derby

Pocket Essentials of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Barry O'Reilly, Cecilia Bottomley,

Janice Rymmer

Saunders 2005

Price £19.99. Pp 480

ISBN 0702026646

The text in this pocket book is succinct and topics are presented in a uniform style. This book starts with history and examination in obstetrics and gynaecology which is quite important.

The clinical management is clear and sufficiently evidence based. The diagrams

are clear and informative. I especially like the flow charts included in relevant parts of the book. The diagram showing the technique of taking triple swabs is very clear and will be helpful to both medical students and trainees in obstetrics and gynaecology. Including the chapter on psychosexual medicine in the book is a good idea.

There are a few suggestions for future editions which would make them even more useful. The section on management of preterm labour does not mention the use of fibronectin test in the prediction of preterm labour. The use of the Rusch catheter could be mentioned in the discussion about managing postpartum haemorrhage. The cervical screening programme now uses the brush which is inserted into a container of solution instead of a slide.

A gynaecological emergencies chapter similar to the one on obstetric emergencies may be worth considering as this is a particularly useful chapter. The medical management of miscarriage is not very clear in the chapter on the management of miscarriage.

This book is easy to carry around and the index is useful and allows you to easily find the information you need in the book.

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