

### Urological Emergencies in Hospital Medicine

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Hiten R Patel, Inderbir S Gill  
Quay Books 2007

Price £24.99. Pp 181

ISBN 978 1 85642 3373

We are, it has been said, thirsting for knowledge but drowning in a sea of information. In the case of this nicely produced and well-written book the 'knowledge' contained has the potential to save lives and significantly reduce morbidity. Remember the look of gratitude on the face of the patient with acute urinary retention as the catheter drains the over-distended bladder, and think of the importance of the correct diagnosis and rapid intervention in a case of

Fournier's gangrene, and it becomes obvious that there is a genuine need for a concise and clear book on urological emergencies.

The editors of this small but well-presented tome are to be congratulated on bringing together some of the country's best-known authorities and putting them together with trainee co-authors, whose job it has been to stick to basic principles and keep the advice on management straightforward and practical.

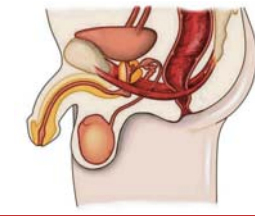
A multidisciplinary approach is advocated, which is wise, since urological trauma often occurs as part and

parcel of multiple injuries involving the chest, abdomen and skeleton, and has to be managed in that wider context. The result is a short but comprehensive book with valuable care pathways and useful summaries of key points to aid retention of the information presented.

I commend this book to all health-care professionals who manage these patients, from GPs to accident and emergency doctors and consultant urologists. It is also a must for any trainee sitting an examination in urology or emergency surgery.

Roger Kirby, *The Prostate Centre, London*

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### Essential Hypertension and Its Causes

Paul I Korner

Oxford University Press 2007

Price £60.00. Pp 690

ISBN 978 0 19 509483 1

This book about hypertension would be an invaluable resource to physicians and researchers in hypertension. Professor Paul Korner, a cardiologist, has formulated this book incorporating many of the latest research advances in order to gain an enhanced understanding of the aetiology of essential hypertension.

He dismisses theories that the causes of essential hypertension are still unknown and instead explores the extensive amount of research that has been completed in this area and details the findings. By reviewing physiological processes the reader appreciates the initiating causes of essential hypertension, the genetic and environmental influences of this condition, and also the neural and non-neural mechanisms involved in blood pressure control.

The book is a comprehensive text, which is well written. The extensive detail may mean that some readers would prefer to have this book as a point of reference and use the chapters pertinent to them. Each chapter is well illustrated with references for further reading. I particularly enjoyed the chapter on exercise training and its effect on blood pressure.

While the technical details in this book may be too advanced for many health-

care professionals, it remains a valuable book for those interested in essential hypertension.

Matthew Kurien, *Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, Sheffield*

### Surviving Prescribing: A Practical Guide

Edited by Rob Shulman, Hugh Montgomery, Jane Ng, Simon Keady  
Remedica 2007

Price £ 25.00. Pp 226

ISBN 978 1901346 930

The responsibility of prescribing medicines is a privilege which should never be taken lightly. Indeed, it has been the aim of the Department of Health to reduce this most common of medical errors; that of prescribing errors, especially among junior doctors.

With this in mind this small compendium attempts to help the junior doctor. With contributions from specialist pharmacists within the differing spheres of medicine, this short book concisely provides the basic concepts of the major drugs in each medical system. However, in an attempt to be very broad in its scope, the book lacks some of its pragmatic promises. There is very little information on drug doses within the book and the formatting is very melancholy. Also I feel more could have been written on the acute specialties with a bit more inspiring formatting to ease the reader. The sky blue colour is very relaxing to read, but I wonder if the book would make better bed time rather than

ward round reading.

Given that we are no longer advised to wear the white coats synonymous with the practising clinician, the size of the book is also not conducive to carrying around the wards. Yet, at £25, the book should not cause too much financial hardship even for the un-banded foundation doctor.

This book would provide a good foundation for medical students and juniors both in medicine and in allied medical specialties alike to develop their understanding of the art of good and safe prescribing.

Rameen Shakur, *The John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford*