

Pulmonary Problems in Pregnancy

Edited by Ghada Bourjeily and Karen Rosene-Montella

Springer Verlag 2009

Price £90.00. Pp 432

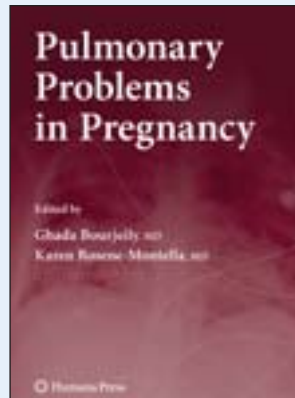
ISBN 978 1 934115 12 1

Maternal medicine has become an essential part of obstetrics because of advancing maternal age and women with pre-existing chronic medical diseases embarking upon pregnancies. Obstetric medicine is a vast area of medicine and therefore this book dedicated to pulmonary problems in pregnancy is a valuable contribution.

The book is a compilation of well-written and all-embracing chapters of complex respiratory problems. The spectrum of multidisciplinary involvement is particularly laudable and impressive. The

book begins with normal physiology, then general management and evaluation and finally specific pulmonary disorders. Chapters include anatomical, physiological, anaesthetic, cardiac and even pharmacological aspects of respiratory disease in pregnancy. The chapter on critical illness in pregnancy is particularly notable and illustrated with interesting case vignettes.

Pulmonary Problems in Pregnancy will appeal and provide a valuable resource to a large audience of health-care professionals, including obstetricians, anaesthetists, obstetric physicians, GPs and midwives who are increasingly looking after women with respiratory conditions.



My only criticism is that the inclusion of recent advances or ongoing research would have enhanced each chapter, rendering the entire book more current. That said most chapters cite key references and the reference lists are mostly comprehensive.

The editors have brought together a collective wealth of expertise from specialist

pulmonologists, critical care intensivists and high risk obstetricians with a good balance between individual respiratory conditions and obstetrics. Overall this is a highly informative and well-mounted text that I would thoroughly recommend.

Feroza Dawood, Liverpool Women's Hospital, Liverpool

Oxford Handbook of Clinical Specialities (8th edn)

Judith Collier, Murray Longmore,

Tom Turmezei, Ahmad Mafi

Oxford University Press 2009

Price £24.95. Pp 841

ISBN 978 0 19 922888 1

What other book will tell you how to triage in a major incident and deliver electroconvulsive therapy as well as giving the definition of Ulysses syndrome and the solution to the zipped penis problem?

The *Oxford Handbook of Clinical Specialities* is a handy pocket reference text aimed at medical students in clinical years and junior doctors on speciality rotations. It encompasses ten specialities: anaesthetics, dermatology, ear, nose and throat surgery, general practice, gynaecology, obstetrics, ophthalmology, orthopaedics, paediatrics and psychiatry. In addition, there are short sections on eponymous syndromes (essential reading for multiple choice questions) and pre-hospital immediate care.

Increased use of colour and diagrams in this new edition make it easier to read and more valuable as a quick reference text in clinical settings. I particularly liked the section on orthopaedics, which is impeccably laid out, clear, concise and thorough.

However, most of these specialities are approached rather better in other texts:

Impey's *Obstetrics and Gynaecology* provides a more structured and understandable introduction to its subject, Lissauer's *Illustrated Textbook of Paediatrics* is more approachable and thorough and ophthalmology and dermatology call for more illustrations than a chapter in a pocket text can provide. Several reflective passages worked into the main text are clichéd and distracting rather than inspiring.

This is a useful book to carry into the clinic in your pocket, but it does not replace core texts for each subject.

Johanna Mack, Deusbury and District Hospital, Deusbury

Infectious Diseases of the Skin

Dirk M Elston

Manson Publishing 2009

Price £60.00. Pp 144

ISBN 978 1 84076 107 8

Elston's *Infectious Diseases of the Skin* covers comprehensively the content of skin infections with a marvellous sting in the tail! Chapters on bacterial, viral, fungal and exotic tropical diseases are dealt with fairly conventionally.

A boon of the book is that most of the clinical photographs are of excellent quality, and importantly show classical as well as atypical presentations. This is particularly true in the fungal diseases chapter where there are excellent descriptions and photographs of every conceivable presen-

tation of tinea corporis, capitis and unguium and the rarer deep fungal infections both in the immunocompetent patient as well those whose response is modified by topical steroid application and human immunodeficiency virus. Photomicrographs of skin sections and special investigations such as skin smears and direct mycology abound.

Novelties (certainly to me!) such as unilateral laterothoracic exanthema are covered. Perhaps the section on scabies could have been more extensively illustrated. Surprisingly for a North American authorship the illustrations of Lyme disease were sparse, and there was no picture of acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans which is likely to be seen by European readers. These minor omissions could be addressed in a second edition.

The final chapter on arthropods is the best and most accessible I have read on this topic. Helpful macrophotographs of the spiders, ticks, mites, caterpillars, scorpions and other bugs and the cutaneous havoc they produce are lavishly described and illustrated. Arachnophobes beware; this is not good bedtime reading!

This is a great little book, both as a handy reference source for infectious disease physicians and dermatologists, and also for the interested generalist.

Ian Coulson, East Lancashire NHS Trust, Burnley