

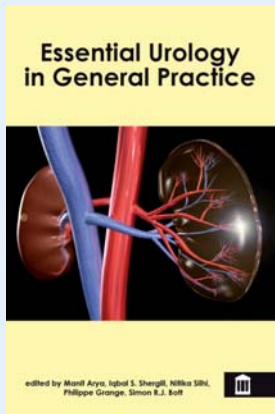
Essential Urology in General Practice

Edited by Manit Arya, Iqbal S Shergill, Nitika Silhi, Philippe Grange, Simon RJ Bott

Quay Books 2009
Price £24.99. Pp 237
ISBN 978 185642372 4

The addition of *Urology* to the essential general practice series should be welcomed by GPs, especially those who have had limited formal exposure to the specialty.

The book contains 22 chapters which cover the management of common adult and paediatric urological conditions in a concise and approachable manner. Each chapter commences with an introductory case study, contains good illustrations and has useful concluding key point summaries. There are excellent



chapters on prostate cancer, benign and malignant skin disorders of the external genitalia and male infertility which would benefit both non-specialist and urological trainees alike.

The book's main weaknesses are a result of it having 59 contributing authors, spanning from FY2 to consultant level. As a consequence the text is inconsistent in style, quality and referencing. Of greater concern as a urologist reviewing the text is that in certain key topics, a lack of clarity contributes to inaccurate or misleading statements in the text.

For example, in the chapter on haematuria the statement 'microscopic/urine dipstick positive haematuria can initially be managed in the community' deviates from 2-week wait referral criteria and could lead to patient harm. Urine cytology is described as a valid investigation in the

basic evaluation of patients with haematuria which contradicts current practice. Other chapters contain similar statements which deviate from current practice with the potential to mislead an uninformed reader.

A summary of existing relevant urological National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and 2-week wait guidance would have been useful to GPs although I acknowledge may have become dated quickly. Renal tumours, discussion of surgical complications and post discharge care were noted omissions from the book, which could be addressed in future editions.

Overall this book is a useful resource for busy GPs seeking an overview of urology that should find a place in all practice libraries. However, other textbooks should be used for reference or revision purposes. The authors should be commended for addressing this void in the literature.

Jonathan Aning, Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter

Oxford Specialist Handbook in Surgery: Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Henk Giele and Oliver Cassell
Oxford University Press 2008
Price £39.95. Pp 942
ISBN 978 0 19 263222 7

Few pocket handbooks are so thorough as this tome, which has been added to the stable of the Oxford Specialist Handbooks in Surgery. Plastic and reconstructive surgery is in many respects the true generalist surgery of today and junior trainees may be overwhelmed with the myriad of anatomical areas and the whole gamut of pathologies that they encounter.

This first edition is succinct, easy to read and superbly illustrated. The text is divided into 23 chapters ranging from the basic sciences, embryology, congenital, regional and trauma to aesthetics and flaps.

The text is easily digestible and based upon the plastic surgery FRCS syllabus. References are quoted throughout the text and especially helpful for further reading in the flaps chapter. For surgical trainees cross covering plastics, the trauma chapter will be invaluable and for higher surgical trainees this handbook is a distillation of

immense surgical experience from the authors and will act as an important aide memoire.

This handbook is highly recommended for both elective and acute plastic surgery for those cross-covering the specialty and for trainees in plastic and reconstructive surgery.

Surjit Lidder, Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Buckinghamshire

Oxford Handbook: Emergencies in Clinical Surgery

Edited by Chris Callaghan, J Andrew Bradley, Christopher JE Watson
Oxford University Press 2008
Price £19.95. Pp 546
ISBN 978 0 19 921901 8

Is Oxford University Press launching an undercover campaign to bring back the white coat? With the increasing number of surgical handbooks they offer trainees will need amazing multipocketed dreamcoats to hold the *Oxford Handbook of Clinical Surgery*, *Oxford Handbook of Surgical Cross-Cover*, *Oxford Handbook of whatever surgical specialty one is attached to at the time* and this, their latest product, *Emergencies in Clinical Surgery*. Having said that, this book is wonderful and I'm

adding it to the growing mobile surgical on-call library based in my car.

It is divided into four parts. The first on basics of emergency surgery, including a chapter on preparing a patient for surgery, is excellent and essential reading for any junior doctor. Part 2, entitled problem-based emergency surgery, contains more fantastic chapters on trauma, the acute abdomen and ward emergencies. Part 3 has 14 very thorough chapters on disease-based emergency surgery covering the common surgical specialties.

Disappointingly there are no chapters covering emergencies in plastic surgery, otolaryngology head and neck surgery nor any discussion of operative techniques, so this book would be best used in conjunction with an operative surgery textbook.

The final part of the book covers common surgical practical procedures and again is very well written with useful anatomical diagrams. I think this is a fantastic handbook and would recommend it to all surgical or emergency department trainees and foundation doctors on surgical rotations.

Sarita V Vamadeva, East Surrey Hospital, Redhill