

Accident and Emergency Radiology: Interpretation of Plain Films

Chris Harvey, Steve Allen, Declan O'Regan

Quay Books 2009

Price £19.99. Pp 164

ISBN 978 1 85642 315 1

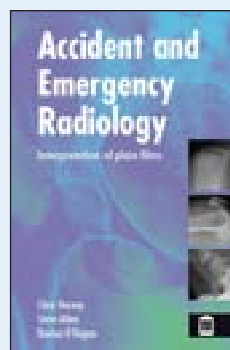
Accident and Emergency Radiology is a welcome, long awaited addition to the accident and emergency X-ray books, many of which are revised editions of older books.

The book has 14 chapters covered in 164 pages. The first introductory chapter discusses the basic principles of accident and emergency film interpretation, which is applicable in general to X-ray interpretation. The next two chapters deal with chest and abdomen X-ray interpretation. These are excellent chapters and would also be useful in the ward setting. Chapters 4 to 12 deal with each major joint of the skeleton. The last two chapters are on paediatric trauma and foreign bodies.

Each chapter is organized with a short discussion of the pertinent anatomy including developmental anatomy, radiographic interpretation and examples of various injuries. The book has a very pragmatic approach, for instance, on the sections on cervical spine and skull, it highlights that computed tomography has clearly superseded plain X-rays.

The book is generously illustrated with radiographs and schematic diagrams. The chapters have useful sections on common interpretative errors which outline the common pitfalls to avoid in the interpretation of X-rays. An example is distinguishing the accessory ossicle from fracture, which is a common error. At the end of each chapter are key points that summarize the salient features of that chapter.

A minor drawback is the pixelated appearance of some of the schematic diagrams. Some of the radiographs are dark



and therefore it is difficult to appreciate the subtle imaging features being demonstrated such as greenstick fracture.

The book is easy to read with a consistent writing style, and is pocket size, making it handy in the casualty setting. The excellent illustrations and practical layout are eminently suitable for the casualty officer, many of whom are on their

first job after qualification as a doctor.

Overall, the book is to be recommended as it. In the preface, the authors state the goal of the book is to 'facilitate instant consultation when faced with an X-ray'. This objective is clearly achieved. This book has my vote and is to be recommended. Although, the book is primarily targeted at casualty doctors but will appeal to junior doctors in surgical and medical specialties and medical students.

Shah Khan, East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust, Blackburn

Clinical Responsibility

Jane Lynch

Radcliffe Press 2009

Price £22.99. Pp 228

ISBN 978 1 84619 223 4

This is an excellent, fascinating book, written by a lawyer with an understanding of health care. She is credible and has seen it all before – from the wrong side.

You could be forgiven for thinking that health professionals cannot win and that you want to shoot the messenger. You can be disciplined for not following orders, but also if you do follow orders and cause a patient harm. Not having notes to hand is not an excuse, no matter how much you have badgered the records department and your specialty manager. Records are meant to be contemporaneous, so, if the medical secretaries are behind with the typing up, who is liable? Team-working is trumpeted in this day and age but will not help you in court to plead that you were following a team decision without really agreeing to it. Even being on holiday is no get-out if you are responsible for systems that might give rise to adverse events.

The book covers accountability during a major incident. Given the swine influenza pandemic at the time of writing, this is

very topical. There is a good description of the civil and criminal court systems. However, there was a rather rambling, detailed, dedicated chapter on Harold Shipman, which I did not think justified. There are some unfortunate spelling errors and inconsistencies.

Overall, I would recommend this book for any doctor. However, do not take it to heart or you will spend the rest of your life looking over your shoulder.

Rachel Hooke, Airedale NHS Trust, Keighley, West Yorkshire

Oxford Desk Reference: Respiratory Medicine

Nick Maskell, Ann Millar

Oxford University Press 2009

Price £55.00. Pp 496

ISBN 978 0 19 923912 2

The Oxford desk reference on respiratory medicine is a portable, quick guide suited to any clinician who routinely manages respiratory disorders. Undergraduates will benefit from the early chapters which focus on anatomy, physiology and the clinical presentations of respiratory disorders.

Largely conventional in its content and overall layout, this book covers each topic in concise chapters in formats which makes

the information rapidly digestible and memorable. The book delivers a good balance of science and clinical guidance, which often favours a back to basics approach interspersed with golden nuggets of information of value to even the most senior clinicians.

Description of many bedside procedural skills and sections on basic bronchoscopy, medical thoracoscopy, chest ultrasound and eosinophilic lung disease are notably absent, but this should not deter readers; other sources must complement this book which otherwise fulfils many of the needs of the specialist by targeting common clinical scenarios and educating on less familiar but choice areas sometimes 'common' only to select tertiary centres. The dedicated chapters on transbronchial needle aspiration, PET-CT scan and ventilation are written in a precise, didactic manner reminiscent of postgraduate courses.

Despite the obvious challenges faced by the publication of any evidenced-based textbook, the contributions by national and international experts go a long way to overcoming this and are pivotal to this book's overall success.

Rana Rabbani, Countess of Chester Hospital, Chester