

## A Colour Handbook of Gastroenterology (2nd edn)

Edited by Ralph Boulton, Claire Cousins, Sanjeev Gupta, Humphrey Hodgson  
Manson Publishing 2011

Price £29.95. Pp 247

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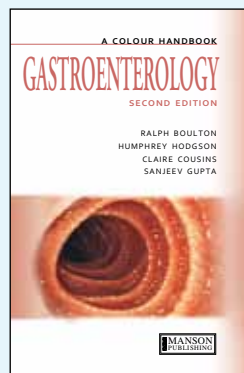
Pitted against smart phones, iPads and desktops, it is increasingly difficult to see where this type of concise handbook (or any book for that matter) fits into everyday medical life.

This colour handbook aims to provide the trainee with a solid introduction to the field of gastroenterology. Written by experienced consultants it provides a concise and up-to-date overview of the major gastrointestinal pathologies, which are linked with key images demonstrating clinical signs and disease states. Each of the 10 chapters opens with a summary of the important learning points. Clear headings and short well laid-out para-

graphs ensure the text is readily accessible and easy to read.

Chapter 1 focuses on history taking and examination (an important area not covered well in web-based information), correlating presenting symptoms with pathology, to encourage specific lines of specialist investigations and emphasize the high prevalence of functional disorders.

Chapters 2 to 8 cover gastrointestinal conditions in a logical sequence from mouth to anus, each starting with a helpful synopsis of the relevant anatomy, histology and pertinent investigations. Chapter 9 provides a practical guide to the management of gastrointestinal bleeding. Chapter 10 describes miscellaneous conditions such as constipation, although much of this could have been incorporated into other chapters.



Suggestions for further reading are lacking. Nonetheless, this book will appeal to those studying for the knowledge based assessment in gastroenterology, although alone it does not provide enough depth. While biliary disorders are well covered, general hepatology is not – a disappointment as similarly priced books do.

This book is recommended to trainees in both gastroenterology and general medicine. It provides a good basis for further study and an excellent quick reference guide. Books such as this remain a good starting point, a quick reminder or a handy source for demonstrating an image to students... a good one for the desk in the registrars' room or endoscopy. *Paul Blaker, Jeremy Sanderson, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, London*

## Oxford Handbook of Anaesthesia (3rd edn)

Edited by Keith G Allman, Iain H Wilson  
Oxford University Press 2011

Price £32.95. Pp 1309

ISBN 978 0 19 958404 8

At more than 1300 pages and 43 chapters the latest edition of the *Oxford Handbook of Anaesthesia* is the most comprehensive yet. Divided into three sections, the text focuses upon preoperative assessment, the conduct of anaesthesia and what is best described as 'the rest'. This final third has a far-reaching and contemporary remit, focusing on many of the issues faced by anaesthetists today.

While each topic is presented clearly and concisely, the chapter on regional anaesthesia deserves special mention. Focusing upon what the authors describe as 'desert island blocks', the handbook assembles a fine collection of line drawings and ultrasound images to help those learning these techniques for the first time. Newcomers to the speciality will also benefit from the 'practical anaesthesia' chapter which covers a wide and disparate range of issues from oesophageal Doppler monitoring and thromboelastography to the impact of herbal medicine on anaesthesia.

With a comprehensive formulary and a final chapter dedicated to definitions, equations and lists, this new edition is the

complete package for anyone embarking upon a career in anaesthetics.

While it no longer sits comfortably in the pocket, the *Oxford Handbook of Anaesthesia* deserves its place in any anaesthetist's rucksack or briefcase. Given the quality and scope of the latest edition, the text not only helps newcomers but also those looking for a contemporary source from which to base their teaching.

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## COPD A Guide to Diagnosis and Clinical Management

Edited by Nicola A Hanania,  
Amir Sharafkhanh

Humana Press 2011

Price £144.00. Pp 319

ISBN 978 1 58829 949 9

The incidence of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is increasing, and it is expected to become the third leading cause of death worldwide by 2020. Increasing research efforts in this field have led to improved understanding of both the diagnosis and management of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

With chapters authored by eminent leaders in the chronic obstructive pulmonary disease research world, this book gives an excellent summary of up-to-date evidence in

the diagnosis and management of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Topics are thoroughly covered and there are some good illustrations and diagrammatic summaries.

The first few chapters set the scene, describing the importance of thinking of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease as a systemic disease, not just a disease of the lungs. One chapter is dedicated to the multiple comorbidities associated with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, highlighting the need to diagnose and manage these effectively. Important aspects of the psychology of the disease are also covered, including diagnosing and managing anxiety and depression.

The latter chapters describe important aspects of both pharmacological and non-pharmacological therapy, and there is a chapter dedicated specifically to exacerbations, including common 'dos and don'ts' for clinicians. The book ends with an excellent section covering general issues such as travel and perioperative management.

This book will provide valuable reference for both primary and secondary care clinicians who are looking for succinct, up-to-date information to help them manage their chronic obstructive pulmonary disease patients optimally.

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