

Oral Medicine: A Colour Handbook (2nd edn)

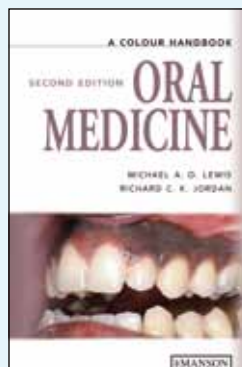
Michael AO Lewis, Richard CK Jordan
Manson Publishing 2012
Price £29.95. Pp 216
ISBN 978 1 840761818

This book's aim is to provide a well-illustrated text to assist in diagnosis and initial management of oral medicine-related conditions. The format of differentiating signs and symptoms rather than dividing diseases by aetiology makes the book very applicable to clinical practice. The introduction proves a useful stepping stone into the rest of the book.

Eight chapters follow addressing clinical presentation of oral medicine-related diseases. The same format is applied in each chapter, starting with a general approach to the symptom and the differential diagnosis. More details then follow

for each diagnosis focusing on aetiology, clinical features and management with multiple excellent clinical photographs supporting the text.

Shortcomings, although few and minor, are worth highlighting. The format means information on diseases which can present in different ways is repeated. Oral lichenoid lesions following replacement of dental restorations can take months rather than weeks to resolve. As this is a book aimed at initial management, the authors may have deliberately focused on just a few possible treatments, but topical amphotericin is no longer available. Carrying out biopsies in general dental practice is not recommended, particularly if a potential cancer is suspected.



As well as providing facts and summaries with excellent supporting clinical images, there are useful references to more comprehensive sources. The addition of a 'test yourself' section is commendable and relevant to each category.

Although not intending to be a definitive text the aims are generally achieved. The organization of chapters enables readers to grasp the contents in a systematic manner. The text is easy to read, presenting relevant and practical information in a clear and simple way supported by clear images. The book would be suitable for dental students, dentists in primary and secondary care, and clinicians in medical specialties.
Anne M Hegarty, Charles Clifford Dental Hospital, Sheffield

Oxford Handbook of Clinical Specialties (9th edn)

Judith Collier, Murray Longmore and Keith Amarakone
Oxford University Press 2013
Price £29.99. Pp 858
ISBN 978 0 19 959118 3

The *Oxford Handbook of Clinical Specialties*, which first appeared in 1987, has reached its ninth edition. It is the counterpart to the perhaps better-known *Oxford Handbook of Clinical Medicine*. It is similar in approach and style, condensing relevant information on a subject into 1–2-page monographs. It covers obstetrics, paediatrics, gynaecology, psychiatry, ophthalmology, primary care, ear, nose and throat, dermatology, anaesthesia, orthopaedics and trauma, and pre-hospital immediate care. Oddly, a section on unusual eponymous syndromes is sandwiched between anaesthesia and orthopaedics.

One cannot expect a field as enormous as paediatrics to be fully covered in 142 pages, despite the small print and cross-referencing. Still, a medical student or a clinician from another specialty will probably find the required information in most cases and without much difficulty.

To save space, numbered references are provided online. Where relevant, high-quality diagrams, colour photos and X-rays are provided. Controversies are illustrated with a small bomb with a burning fuse. The text

contains numerous allusions to the humanities, basic science and sometimes popular culture; and the authors share their views on holistic and patient-centred medicine.

This book deserves to be used by medical students for finals, and could help foundation year 1 and 2 doctors preparing for a new job, but it has a lot to give to doctors who have entered core or specialist training who need to interact with other specialties in their day-to-day work. Rather than coming across as completely ignorant in ophthalmology when referring someone with a painful red eye and reduced vision to the ophthalmology team, one can skim-read the relevant pages here in a few minutes and at least offer a relevant differential diagnosis.

Jacob de Wolff, Northwick Park Hospital, London

Principles and Practice of Regional Anaesthesia (4th edn)

Edited by Graeme A McLeod, Colin JL McCartney, JAW Wildsmith
Oxford University Press 2012
Price £70.00. Pp 304
ISBN 978 0 19 958669 1

Where to start? It is rare to find a book that so satisfies. Within 250 pages the authors have produced a stunning textbook of regional anaesthesia, attempting to cover this grand topic from its earliest endeavours to the modern day. Do they succeed? I should say so.

It is as accessible and readable (while being heavily referenced) as you could wish for. What comes across is the quality of the prose and the consistency of the editing. All too often a textbook can seem like a selection of separate chapters bound in a book with little care given to the overall product. Here, there is great continuity. The text is up to date and strikes the right balance between being informative and evidenced while never sounding preachy.

I spent time on the spinal and epidural chapters – here the practicality of the technique is described and illustrated (drawings and photos). Quickly the text moves from the basics onto the vital details – what factors influence spread, how best to block the surgical fields for varying procedures and specialized techniques including continuous spinal anaesthesia. I especially valued the chapters on outcome issues. It is helpful to be reminded why we do what we do – and why those that do not, should.

Evidence is used throughout but there is a balanced tone. Where doubt exists – explanations are given. The book also comes with free online access, which is a real move forward.

This book is highly recommended for any anaesthetist, regardless of experience, who values regional anaesthesia – in my view that should mean all of us.
Richard Griffiths, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, Kent