

Clinical Care Conundrums: Challenging Diagnoses in Hospital Medicine

Edited by James C Pile, Thomas E Baudendistel, Brian Harte
Wiley-Blackwell 2013
Price £46.95. Pp 208
ISBN 9780470905654

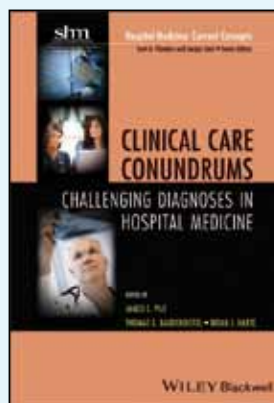
This book presents nineteen diagnostically challenging case histories. Each case is discussed in the form of a 'morning report' whereby the clinical presentation, investigations and progress are presented step by step and discussed by an expert clinician. The diagnosis is not fully revealed until the end of the presentation and as such the reader is able to follow the reasoning of the clinician and the rationale for the investigations used to reach the diagnosis. Each chapter concludes with a

comprehensive review of the final diagnosis.

The cases range from cardiac sarcoid presenting as dilated cardiomyopathy to more unusual cases such as steroid-responsive encephalopathy associated with autoimmune thyroiditis.

The book is easy to read and has numerous well-chosen illustrations of the radiology, histology, electrocardiogram and electroencephalogram recordings accompanying each case.

There are intriguing chapters on the frequency of diagnostic delay in medical practice (quoted as between 0.3 and 2.2% of all hospital admissions). The authors discuss some common sense approaches



which may help clinicians reduce the frequency of such errors – including acknowledging and communicating uncertainty during handover (especially relevant in these times of multiple patient handovers between teams) and discussing difficult cases with junior staff to promote learning and education.

While this book undoubtedly has an American slant it is well written, clear and engaging. It is an excellent resource for senior trainees and consultants who see unselected patients on the medical take and wish to challenge their diagnostic skills and reasoning.
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Emergencies in Sports Medicine

Edited by Julian Redhead and Jonathan Gordon
Oxford University Press 2012
Price £24.99. Pp 336
ISBN 978 0 19 960267 4

Growing publicity and scrutiny of medical emergencies and trauma care at sports events of all levels compounds the need for the preparation, equipment and training of all medical and allied support staff to be professional and legally defensible.

This compact and concise handbook fills certain gaps in knowledge that immediate care in sports courses cannot fully cover. Written by clinicians who provide regular emergency on-field care for elite athletes, the contents are equally applicable to school games or recreational sport.

The assessment and care of collapsed or injured athletes on the 'field of play' is a unique pre-hospital setting. This book succinctly details the causes, presentations, clinical assessment and immediate management of serious sports injuries and medical emergencies from head to toe. The *Oxford Handbook of Sport and Exercise Medicine* differs in that its emphasis is largely on the post-pitchside care of many of these problems.

This handbook also covers pre-event preparation, the possible complications of exercising at extremes of temperature or at altitude, as well as the special problems of people with disabilities who exercise, those

with certain pre-existing chronic conditions, and children. Uniquely, there is useful advice on communication with players, colleagues and the media, as well as breaking bad news and managing aggressive athletes.

The contents are very practical and directly relevant to any clinician who provides sports first aid. It is an essential read for new practitioners, and more experienced clinicians would undoubtedly find this book a valuable refresher.

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Management of Prostate Cancer (3rd edn)

Edited by Eric A Klein and J Stephen Jones
Humana Press 2012
Price £135. Pp 439
ISBN 978 1 60761 258 2

This third edition of *Management of Prostate Cancer* provides a comprehensive overview of prostate cancer. It is characterized by chapters which are a thoughtful interpretation of the classical and more recent data by those with relevant experience in the field.

Starting with a discussion of epidemiology and risk factors, the importance of both environmental and genetic factors is considered. There is a chapter questioning the utility of prostate-specific antigen measurement, another on the potential impact of other biomarkers, and a challenging review

by Timothy Wilt of the evidence for prostate-specific antigen screening. A review of diagnostic strategies for prostate cancer, including discussion of biopsy techniques and their potential diagnostic and therapeutic impact, is included, although it lacks a chapter on the use of imaging for detection and staging. New chapters in this edition look at the increasing awareness and use of nomograms, and focal treatment strategies for localized disease.

Treatment options for all stages of prostate cancer are reviewed, from low risk, localized disease, to advanced and castrate-resistant cancer. There is a comparison of treatment modalities for low and intermediate risk disease, and the emerging role of radical prostatectomy in advanced disease is considered. Strategies for managing locally recurrent, advanced metastatic and castrate-resistant disease are discussed, including a comprehensive review of secondary hormonal manipulation strategies, novel anti-androgen inhibitors, and immunotherapy in castrate-resistant prostate cancer, where management has changed greatly since the second edition of the book in 2004.

This book is highly relevant for all those with an interest in prostate cancer and its management – it combines a solid factual review with pertinent and thorough summaries of current evidence.

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