

Diabetes: Clinician's Desk Reference

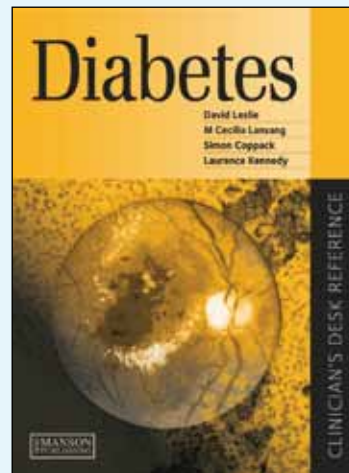
R David Leslie, M Cecilia Lansang, Simon Coppack and Laurence Kennedy
Manson Publishing 2013
Price £40.00. Pp 208
ISBN 978 1 84076 158 0

This is an excellent reference textbook on the practical aspects of diabetes, written by international experts. The book provides a highly practical resource for doctors in training, practicing physicians – both specialists and primary care doctors – specialist diabetes nurse and allied health-care professionals practising within the field of diabetes.

The book covers in sufficient detail diabetes pathophysiology, the different types of diabetes and disease classifica-

tions, aetiology, symptomatology and complications, diagnosis, screening process and monitoring in the clinical setting, either in primary or secondary care, and available and forthcoming treatment options. The authors provide summaries of key and landmark clinical trials which form the body of the evidence upon which practical recommendations are made.

The book is overall very well written. The text is clear and concise, easy to read and follow. The text is enriched and com-



plemented by a series of diagrams, tables, bullet points, graphs and images which make finding and memorising information easier for the reader.

This is a very good, well-written, easy to read book that comprehensively covers all aspects of diabetes. It will serve as a very useful tool for health-care professionals involved in managing

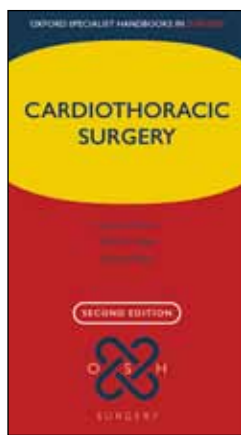
patients with diabetes.

Efthimia Karra, University College London, London/Stephanie E Baldeweg, University College London Hospitals, London

Oxford Handbook of Cardiothoracic Surgery (2nd edn)

Joanna Chikwe, David Cooke, Aaron Weiss
Oxford University Press 2013
Price £49.99. Pp 864
ISBN 978 0 19 964283 0

This is a concise handbook that would be of value to specialist registrars at all levels in cardiothoracic surgery. The book provides a concise review of cardiac and then thoracic conditions, together with a concise section on acute scenarios and their management.



Cardiothoracic training has been hampered by the European Working Time Directive. The exposure of trainees to postoperative care has therefore suffered as trainees find it more difficult to get the required experience in operating theatres. I think this book would be of value to year 1 and year 2 specialist registrars, and would also be of use to year 5 specialist registrars who are revising for their exit exam.

The text is laid out in a well-thought out manner. I particularly like the way the key

facts are stated initially. This has the effect of focusing the reader's mind on the central issues, making reading more meaningful. I enjoyed reading this book and I would recommend it to UK trainees.

David Lawrence, The Heart Hospital, London

Emergencies in Paediatrics and Neonatology (2nd edn)

Edited by Stuart Crisp and Jo Rainbow
Oxford University Press 2013
Price £27.99. Pp 576
ISBN 978 0 19 960553 8

This compact handbook follows the Oxford handbook format and has 27 chapters. Starting with communication, nuggets of information include asking yourself why you are doing a test and that it is crucial for the family and child to know what is being done.

Diagrammatic representation of heart murmurs and the eye are real pluses of the handbook. In general, diagrams are of disappointing quality being too small, e.g. management ones such as neonatal resuscitation, anaphylaxis, hypoglycaemia and asthma; the electrocardiogram showing Wolff–Parkinson–White syndrome – a larger picture of one lead is needed to appreciate delta waves; and hip X-rays in the orthopaedic section. There is unnecessary duplication, e.g. fracture angulation and displacement diagram appears on pages 111 and 333. In contrast, encephalitis is only mentioned in infectious dis-

ease and not neurology. Immunological causes are not considered.

Most information is accurate with a few exceptions. The ceftriaxone dose is not the standard UK one. Antibiotic protocols are of limited value as hospitals use local ones. Biochemistry units are only quoted in mmol/litre and different countries use different units. There is not enough emphasis on intraosseous access, and resuscitation stops at ABCD rather than E for exposure. Posture is not discussed under disability. In shocked neonates emphasis is on giving 20 ml/kg fluid and then frusemide rather than feeling for a big liver and cardiac causes as part of circulation assessment.

It is unclear who this book is aimed at. If going to a remote location and short of luggage allowance I would take it with me. For the UK paediatrician, life support courses are preferable such as European Paediatric Life Support, Advanced Paediatric Life Support and Newborn Life Support and using the detailed course handbooks which cover paediatric emergencies. Easy to read laminated Advanced Paediatric Life Support guidelines reduce risk of error rather than the small handbook diagrams. Although the cost of £27.99 is reasonable, I suggest the money would be better spent purchasing the sister *Oxford Handbook of Paediatrics*.

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