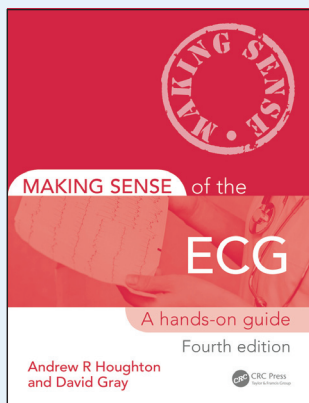


Making sense of the ECG: a hands-on guide (4th edn)

Andrew R Houghton, David Gray
CRC Press 2014

Price £19.99. Pp 247
ISBN 978 1 4441 8182 1

This book adopts a straightforward and easy-to-read approach to interpretation of the electrocardiogram (ECG). Written in a step-by-step manner it is full of clearly illustrated ECGs and explanatory diagrams. It is an ideal introduction to the subject with some useful clinical pointers and key messages along the way. I liked the reference to Cabrero's sign, to help distinguish left bundle-branch block between patients possibly with or without prior infarction. I also learnt that the PR interval may be



depressed in association with an acute inferior myocardial infarction.

Inevitably, in a relatively small book there will be areas that are covered only briefly. In the section on the QRS complex, it might have been worth indicating that a low voltage (<0.5 mV in all limb leads and less than 1.0 mV in all chest leads) is frequently cited as a reasonable cut off. In the list of causes of low QRS voltage amplitude I would have included hypothyroidism and infiltrative cardiomyopathies (i.e. amyloidosis).

In the section on T waves, T-wave inversion is described as a 'normal variant' in leads III, V1, V2 and occasionally V3 (in Afro-Caribbeans) and always in aVR. The authors do not mention isolated

T-wave inversion in AVL – a fairly frequent finding, which actually appears in the presentation of a 'normal' ECG in *Figure 16.1*. Sarcoidosis might have been included in their table of causes of ventricular tachycardia (must be more prevalent than brugada?)

Personally, I felt a section on the differences seen on the ECG (in particular the T wave) between genders would have been useful. There are well-recognized differences in the frequency of 'non-pathological' ST elevation, QRS duration, rate of 'take-off' and duration of the T wave to mention a few. These changes then help to explain an influence on the duration of the QT interval that differs between males and females. Including a section on the athletic heart in the next edition would be worthwhile.

Overall, a very nicely presented book.
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Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (2nd edn)

Edited by Cyrus Kerewala and Carrie Newlands
Oxford University Press 2014
Price £42.99. Pp 528
ISBN 978 0 19 968840 1

It is a pleasure to review this book, which represents a substantial volume of work with contributions from very significant authors within the specialty. The Oxford handbooks offer a substantial knowledge base in a very condensed easy-to-access format, which makes them very useful in the outpatient or ward setting while being easy to carry around. In addition the book could be used as a structure underpinning work toward the exit fellowship.

The book is subdivided into 11 main sections which offer almost encyclopaedic coverage of the specialty. Of interest is coverage of aesthetic, craniofacial and cleft lip and palate surgery which may not be readily accessible to every trainee, but of which a working knowledge would be expected.

The book hits the mark, although there are some minor criticisms. The work is not encyclopaedic, and the depth of knowledge varies between chapters. For example within the trauma section there is no coverage of classification of either naso-orbito-ethmoid or edentulous frac-

tures, both of which would be standard opening questions in an exam.

While it would be impossible to cover the whole curriculum in one small book, there is minimal blank paper to annotate and add notes to. The illustrations are sporadic and sometimes of poor quality, often not supporting the text. Finally the cover of the book is too thin and differs from the old handbooks, meaning that the book would become tatty within a few weeks in a pocket.

These are minor criticisms of what is a must have for trainees and consultants within the specialty, although it is relatively expensive for what it is.

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Emerging Infectious Diseases: Clinical Case Studies

Edited by Önder Ergönül, Füsün Can, Lawrence Madoff, Murat Akova
Elsevier 2014

Price £95.00. Pp 393
ISBN 978 0 12 416975 3

The authors and editors of *Emerging Infectious Diseases: Clinical Case Studies* have selected emerging infections, relevant to both generalists and infection specialists, that are presented in a succinct, readable and well-referenced format. Using a

broad definition of the term 'emerging', topics include infections that are newly identified, well described but under-diagnosed, and re-emerging pathogens such as tuberculosis, *Acinetobacter* and Pertussis.

The unified structure of each chapter helps navigation and pathogen comparison. Framing each chapter with a case gives the book a clinically focused feel. The 'differential diagnosis' sections are useful, highlighting that many pathogens manifest with an undifferentiated febrile illness and emphasizing the importance of a broad diagnostic approach to attain a timely diagnosis. As many of the pathogens discussed pose a potential threat globally, the cases bring to life the need for a collaborative approach between clinicians, diagnosticians and public health teams, both on a local and global scale.

Perhaps to be anticipated for any book about emerging infections, epidemiology has changed in the interval between writing and publication; there is no mention of the Ebola and Chikungunya outbreaks in West Africa and the Caribbean, although the pathogens are discussed. However, there is sufficient diversity of cases and pathogens examined for this book to be relevant to a wide audience.

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