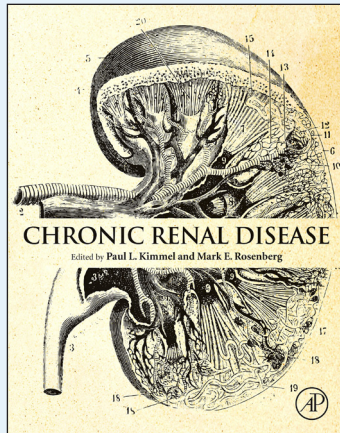


Chronic Renal Disease

Edited by Paul L Kimmel,
Mark E Rosenberg
Academic Press, Elsevier 2015
Price £125.00. Pp 930
ISBN 978 0 1241 1602 3

The introduction of the phrase ‘chronic kidney disease’ to renal medicine in 2002 introduced a terminology that would change renal medicine. Clinical practice and research rapidly adopted the classification, expanding the number of people with a chronic illness and providing a new framework for clinical research. In addition, the ‘CKD



revolution’ provided the editors with the justification for this book: ‘we were struck that no major textbook had considered the relatively new field of chronic kidney disease – CKD’.

It is interesting, therefore, that this book is titled *Chronic Renal Disease*, adopting the term ‘used by professionals’ to emphasize the scientific focus of the text. Perhaps it also underlines some scepticism of the term ‘chronic kidney disease’, a ‘concept designed by a committee’ as Steve Pietzman states in chapter 2 in a ‘partly playful, partly provocative’ way.

Regardless of the intent this book is comprehensive in its coverage, and is packed full of useful information. A particular strength is the accessible description of the basic science that underpins the clinical aspects of renal medicine.

Inevitably in a multi-author book there is some duplication, with the classification of chronic kidney disease being presented in a number of chapters. This may add to the length (and weight) of the book, but does not detract from it. Rather it makes it easier to use the book for reference.

The term ‘chronic kidney disease’ expanded the scope of renal medicine. This book makes it more accessible to all health professionals.

John R Bradley, Cambridge University Hospitals, Cambridge

Eureka: Cardiovascular Medicine

Paul Morris, David Warriner,
Allison Morton
JP Medical Publishers 2015
Price £22.95. Pp 415
ISBN 9781907816826

Not only do I recommend this book to medical students, but also to eager doctors wishing to refresh and further their knowledge on cardiovascular medicine. From the popular Eureka series, this book offers comprehensive reading material covering all aspects of cardiovascular medicine, from the core basic principles to the up-to-date treatment of various cardiac conditions.

The book starts with complete coverage of first basic principles, which encompasses the relevant anatomy and physiology. All anticipated key topics such the cardiac cycle, cardiac electrophysiology and vascular haemodynamics are included and the material is well explained, much so that even embryology makes sense.

The ‘clinical essentials’ chapter offers the reader a clinician’s insight on history-taking, clinical examinations, investigations and management – tailored to the cardiovascular system. The reader is also provided with concise pharmacological basics on the important and commonly used cardiovascular drugs. Mnemonics, tables and pictures break up the text and offer the reader bedside ‘tips and tricks’.

The cardiac conditions and diseases are structured to enable the reader a pragmatic

approach from clinical presentation to management. The text includes electrocardiograms, echocardiograms, chest X-rays and computed tomography scans. The grey boxes offer the reader advice and insight.

The final chapter is a self-assessment section offering 82 ‘single best answer’-style questions to bolster any student’s preparation ahead of exams, or simply to memory.

Cardiovascular medicine is a cornerstone of any doctor’s training and a sound understanding is essential. This book satisfies this in a comprehensive, insightful and engaging manner that will undoubtedly lure readers into the specialty.

Michael Michail, Barts Heart Centre, London

Subarachnoid Hemorrhage in Clinical Practice

Gabriel JE Rinkel, Paut Greebe
Springer 2015
Price £40.99. Pp 101
ISBN 978 3 319 17839 4

This is a compact, concise and well-arranged book with detailed contents pages making it a very user-friendly quick reference.

Intracranial aneurysms and subarachnoid haemorrhage are terrifying yet rare occurrences and their prevalence is covered in some detail. This chapter is fairly heavy on statistics but is relevant and reflects the fact that this is precisely the information a patient will often ask doctors for. Risk and trigger factors are carefully explored with an

overriding emphasis on hypertension and smoking being the most important modifiable risk factors to address. Readers are reminded throughout the book of the need to constantly encourage smokers to quit.

The incidental finding of an aneurysm and the management of unruptured aneurysms is helpfully dealt with under the important observation that ‘most incidental intracranial aneurysms do not need treatment, but all patients with incidental aneurysms do’. The authors discuss practical strategies for doing this, dispel some common myths and answer frequently asked questions, e.g. physical activity and sexual intercourse are not contraindicated and antiplatelet therapy is safe.

The detailed chapter on the aftercare of patients who have suffered a subarachnoid haemorrhage and the significance of addressing the ‘non-visible’ sequelae such as subtle cognitive and sensory impairments that can easily be overlooked but have a huge impact on a person’s quality of life is particularly good and includes a memorable illustrative case study.

There are a few small pictures throughout the book and more scans and illustrative imaging would be welcome, but there are plenty of helpful diagrams and tables to support the text. Overall this is a readable, comprehensive and informative guide to the topic.

Angela Dawson, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London