

Crohn's Disease: Radiological Features and Clinical-Surgical Correlation

Edited by Giuseppe Lo Re, Massimo Midiri
Springer 2016

Price £59.99. Pp 177

ISBN 978 3 319 23065 8

Diagnostic and therapeutic advances in inflammatory bowel disease herald a new age in the assessment and management of Crohn's disease. As such, there has been revitalized interest in the way patients are best served, particularly in the partnership between clinician, surgeon and radiologist.

At first glance, this book's title suggests an unambiguous radiological view of Crohn's disease. Refreshingly, however, this book does much more. It is a comprehensive, well-researched and clinically relevant read with a particular emphasis on radiology.

Where this book excels is in relating the description and use of radiology to the diagnosis and management of Crohn's disease. Separate chapters outline the use of ultrasound, computed tomography

and magnetic resonance imaging with subsequent chapters demonstrating their use in clinical and surgical situations. The crossover between chapters adds weight to the key principles. This is particularly notable in 'Radiological follow-up of inflammatory bowel diseases', where the authors describe the use of magnetic resonance imaging to detect disease recurrence before symptoms begin.

Important chapters include the 'Course of Crohn's disease' and 'Standard therapeutic approach and new therapies'. Both reflect the ever-changing nature of Crohn's with a good, up-to-date summary of the natural disease history and management strategies including immunomodulation and biologic therapy.

This is an evidence-based, clinically relevant, accessible and compact read.
Srivathsan Ravindran, Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust, Brighton



Crucial Interventions, or an illustrated treatise on the principles and practice of 19th century surgery

Richard Barnett

Thames and Hudson 2015

Price £19.95. Pp 255

ISBN 9780500518106

A surgeon entering into his training as a teenage apprentice in the 1840s and retiring in the 1880s would have lived through the most extraordinary decades of any of the two millennia of surgical history.

As a young man, he would have had to harden himself to the screams and cries of his patients in the operating theatre, relieved only by the administration of opium, alcohol and laudanum. The introduction of ether and of chloroform would bring blessed relief from the agonies of the knife.

Our hero, in his early training, would have been all too familiar with the sepsis, pus, 'hospital gangrene' and the other inevitable manifestations of the bacterial invasion of wounds, whether these were the result of accidents, warfare or introduced into the wound on the surgeon's hands and instruments. The work of Lister, Pasteur and their acolytes in the 1860s and 70s

marked the start of the long battle against surgical sepsis which continues today.

Against this background, *Crucial Interventions* presents an extraordinary array of illustrations, many in colour, from the Wellcome Collection, portraying the surgical pathology, operative surgery, instruments and operating theatres of those exciting decades. The pictures are well supported by a clear text by the author, who has taught the cultural history of science and medicine at the universities of Cambridge and London.

A book that will appeal to all lovers of medical history.

Harold Ellis, Guy's, King's and St Thomas' School of Biomedical Sciences, London

Key Topics in Management of the Critically Ill

Edited by Marcela P Vizcaychipi,

Carlos M Corredor

Springer 2016

Price £72.00. Pp 198

ISBN 978 3 319 22376 6

Key Topics in Management of the Critically Ill provides an easy-to-digest insight into the management of critically ill patients. Written by experts in their fields, chapters may be read in series or on their own. While not overlaid with information,

each chapter offers a succinct summary, and gives an up-to-date list of references to aid further understanding of the subject.

The topics themselves are diverse, ranging from an update in commonly encountered scenarios (acute liver failure: diagnosis and management for the general intensive care) to often neglected subjects (magnesium and cell membrane stability in the critically ill patient), but together they provide a holistic overview of managing the critically ill patient. Two chapters are dedicated to bedside echocardiography and ultrasound – proficiency in which will undoubtedly become part of an intensivist's day-to-day skill set.

Alongside the concisely written text, clear photographs, images and tables enhance the clarity of each chapter, a number of which (but not all) summarize their important facts in a 'Conclusions and take home messages' section.

While its relatively high cost may discourage some readers, the up-to-date material and guidelines ensure that this book lends itself to be read by any medical professional involved in the care and management of critically ill patients.
Edward Gilbert-Kawai, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow