

Great Ormond Street Handbook of Paediatrics (2nd edn)

Edited by Stephan Strobel, Lewis Spitz, Stephen D Marks
CRC Press 2016
Price £63.99. Pp 736
ISBN 9781482222791

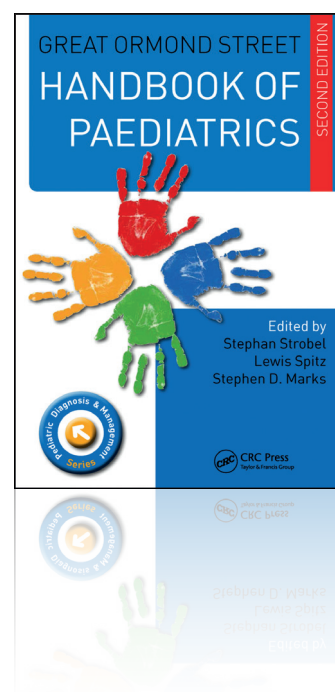
This book does all it claims to do. There are 22 chapters which have useful subheadings and there is a highly comprehensive index which is easy to use. The diagrams are particularly helpful and enhance the text, including electrocardiogram traces, explanations about the eye and cardiac defects to name just a few. Many conditions are demystified, e.g. genetics, and give a comprehensive guide to those without prior knowledge. A key feature is the number of helpful photographs which illustrate common and rarer conditions, which may otherwise never be encountered.

My only criticism of the book is that rare conditions such as lung transplantation are covered in detail

whereas not all details are included regarding common conditions, for example the bronchiolitis section does not cover use of high flow oxygen which is a mainstay of treatment in district general hospitals.

It is unusual to have a book which is a portable size so crammed with facts. It is well written and easy to read. The cost of £63.99 represents good value and this would enhance the bookshelf of any paediatrician, being quicker than an internet search to gain authoritative facts from experts about conditions. I would particularly recommend it for anyone starting out in paediatrics or considering taking the paediatric membership exam. It should more than cover all knowledge needed about medical and surgical conditions and is a handy reference book to dip in and out of as needed.

Helen Goodyear, Health Education England (West Midlands), Birmingham



Stroke Medicine (2nd edn)

Hugh Markus, Anthony Pereira, Geoffrey Cloud
Oxford University Press 2017
Price £39.99. Pp 596
ISBN 978 0 19873 788 9

The second edition of this Oxford neurology handbook in stroke medicine covers many topics relevant to the everyday running of a stroke service. Chapters range from stroke epidemiology, neuroanatomy, clinical assessment and management, stroke radiology and rehabilitation, through to vascular dementia, organization of stroke services and ethical issues.

The handbook is up to date and evidence based, with useful references provided in each chapter. For example, in the area of hyper-acute stroke management, all major stroke intra-arterial thrombectomy trials are included in an at-a-glance table. Targeted blood pressure management in hyper-acute haemorrhagic stroke is discussed in light of newer evidence. Post-stroke seizure or epilepsy is also included.

The section on stroke radiology is comprehensive, although transcranial Doppler is not used routinely in clinical practice. The brain perfusion scans (i.e. blood volume and flow) could have been

printed in their conventional colours to aid understanding of salvageable penumbra.

The concluding chapters discuss highly relevant ethical and medicolegal topics, such as do not attempt cardiopulmonary resuscitation and deprivation of liberty. Palliative care issues are discussed, although the concept of risk and comfort feeding in the care of some end-of-life patients could have been more explicit.

This comprehensive handbook is packed with up-to-date knowledge in stroke medicine. It would be a good investment for any stroke unit or clinician working in this important, complex area of medicine.
Joseph Ngeh, Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust, Essex

Drug Dosing in Obesity. Volume I: Antimicrobials

Edited by Syed Tabish R Zaidi, Jason A Roberts
Springer 2016
Price £82.00. Pp 133
ISBN 978 3 319 44032 3

With rising populations of obese patients and issues regarding antimicrobial resistance, this book is well timed. It consists of 11 chapters arranged by

antimicrobial drug class, written by doctors, pharmacists and academics.

The introductory chapter starts with the rationale for individualized antimicrobial dosing in obesity, the physiological changes that affect pharmacological response and the factors to consider before making dosing decisions for antimicrobials.

This is followed by six chapters covering the most commonly used antibiotic classes, three chapters dedicated to antifungal agents and one on miscellaneous agents, including antivirals. Each outlines the pharmacodynamic target of that drug class, explains the pharmacokinetic changes in obese patients, and discusses the literature and dosing recommendations. Chapters end with a thorough reference list.

Summary tables act as a quick reference point for readers. Dosing recommendations are based on available literature, expert opinion and consider possible monitoring requirements needed with higher doses.

This comprehensive book is well structured, easy to use and has a wealth of useful information. It will be of particular value to those involved in managing obese patients with infections.

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