

Emergency Dermatology (2nd edn)

Edited by Ronni Wolf, Lawrence C Parish, Jennifer L Parish
CRC Press 2017
Price £99.00. Pp 358
ISBN 9781498729314

This comprehensive hardback will perhaps be best appreciated by the perplexed dermatology registrar or resident returning from consult on a high dependency or intensive care unit, having been faced with a sick patient with cutaneous signs. Covering acute dermatology from all the relevant perspectives – infection, inflammation, drug reactions – it provides a valuable resource for those faced with skin failure or skin dysfunction accompanied by systemic upset.

The writing style is an excellent mix of the didactic and the discursive, the latter adding a very useful ‘real-world’ dimension to the prose. This feels as if it has been written by practicing clinicians regularly

facing the conditions they describe, rather than ivory tower academics.

The chapters on bullous disorders would be of particular use in distinguishing the numerous clinical entities which present in this way. The chapter on stings, bites and envenomations was an engaging and visually-striking read. A novel feature is chapter on information management, which guides one through a selection of the myriad e-resources available in dermatology, from diagnostic algorithms to iPhone apps which function as Geiger counters in the detection of radiation exposure.

The indexing is accurate and the figures well labelled. A single criticism is that parts of the book appear rather text-dense, and more space could have been accorded to the images. However, this will be a welcome addition to the library of the dermatologist, the general physician and the GP.

Sarah Walsh, King's College Hospital, London



Viral Infections in Children volume 1

Edited by Robin J Green
Springer 2017
Price £115.50. Pp 220
ISBN 978 3 319 54032 0

This book, volume one of two, looks at viral infections in children. It is well written and thoughtfully laid out. It was a pity that volume 2 was not sent for review at the same time as reviewing only half of something can never give a complete picture.

There are eight chapters which appear to relate to conditions which are prevalent in South Africa where the editor works. The book covers congenital infections, influenza, HIV, diagnosis of viral infections and emerging viral illnesses including Zika virus. This is most welcome as this infection is much on clinicians' minds yet easy to access authoritative and well-researched facts are not always at hand.

Although the book is aimed at clinicians, including young doctors, and non-clinicians the real niche for this book in my opinion is for those specializing in virology or paediatric infectious disease specialists. For the general paediatrician more pictures are required and hints and

tips which will affect daily practice. There are significant omissions in how to diagnose infections, e.g. use of a throat swab for viruses affecting the respiratory tract.

The strengths of this book are its in-depth information in an easily portable version. I suspect that most will be put off by the cost but I would recommend a departmental library copy. I look forward to reading volume 2 which, if internet reviews are accurate, will be of much more relevance to a clinician's daily practice.

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

A Case-Based Approach to Emergency Psychiatry

Edited by Katherine Maloy
Oxford University Press 2016
Price £35.99. Pp 224
ISBN 978 0 19 025084 3

It was a great pleasure to read this multi-author book which covers a wide range of clinical presentations and special needs.

The contents include mood, psychosis and substance use presentations, but also special diagnostic groups and needs. It was interesting to see a chapter specifically about ethical issues which addresses many

of the human rights and compulsion issues that would occur in UK practice, despite the authors being from North America. The cases have been developed from aspects of several different cases or scenarios to preserve patient confidentiality.

For UK readers, despite the differences in the health systems, the clinical scenarios and management issues translate well. Each chapter discusses a case or cases relating to one area, which concisely outlines the presentation and problem, along with issues with diagnosis, assessment and management. Each self-contained chapter has a supporting reference list. The ‘clinical pearls’ are useful, particularly for trainees. Some cases are supported by imaging, investigation results and relevant rating scales and some have helpful reflective learning points.

Despite the differences, the content of this short book would make it particularly useful for psychiatric trainees, liaison psychiatry teams and emergency department staff. This was an enjoyable read and the interspersing of clinical vignettes of cases, discussion of specific and general issues arising and learning points, make this a useful resource.

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