

## Making Sense of Lung Function Tests. A Hands-on Guide (2nd edn)

**Jonathan Dakin, Mark Mottershaw,  
Elena Kourteli**

**CRC Press 2017**

**Price £25.99. Pp 204**

**ISBN 978 1 4822 4968 2**

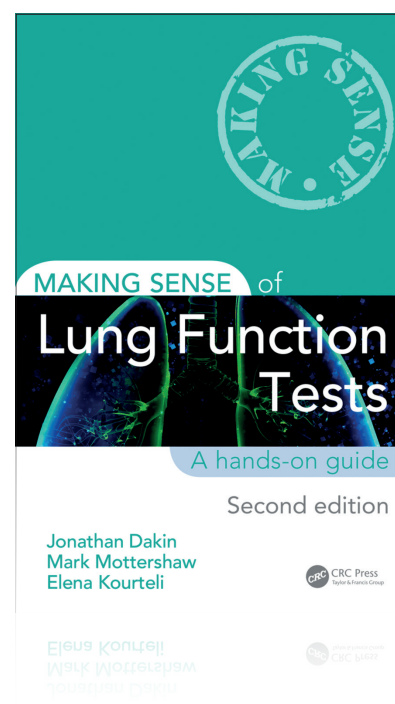
This is an excellent read. The teaching of respiratory physiology (in my experience) is often uninspiring or baffling, overshadowed by more glamorous radiology pictures and easier to understand pathology. However, applied and interpreted well, it can illuminate clinical practice. Topics covered include pulmonary function testing, nitric oxide use, testing for respiratory muscle weakness, blood gas interpretation and cardiopulmonary exercise testing.

Explanations are easy to understand but detailed enough to add real value to practice and interest the reader. There is nothing like a good bit of physiology to make one marvel over the brilliance of the human body.

The practicalities, pitfalls and contraindications of performing each test are described, which is useful in identifying the right test for each patient, although no substitute for real-life experience. The text is patient focused throughout, with 'clinical pearls' from experienced physicians and learning summarized in key points. The chapter on cardiopulmonary exercise testing is particularly strong in terms of explaining key principles and findings, and the book ends with a neat strategy for interpreting pulmonary function test results in order to reach the correct clinical diagnosis.

A very accessible book for any level of medical trainee, or even as a revision text for those with more experience. I would highly recommend this book and would consider it a key text for any respiratory registrars completing their specialist examinations.

*Helen Liddicoat, Ninewells Hospital, Tayside*



## Coloproctology: A Practical Guide

**Edited by John Beynon, Dean A Harris,  
Mark Davies, Martyn Evans**

**Springer 2017**

**Price £136.00. Pp 319**

**ISBN 978 3 319 55955 1**

This is an easily readable textbook aimed primarily at coloproctology trainees and junior consultants. The chapters are edited by well-respected national and international authors and the use of subheadings makes referencing straightforward. The book includes appropriately some medical advances such as management of perianal disease in the biological era and personalized genomics and molecular profiles in colorectal cancer. This is already leading to coloproctology subspecialization and justifies calling the book a practical guide.

The editors have included chapters about some newer surgical procedures such as robotic colorectal surgery, which are yet to find their place, as well as chapters on difficult surgical problems such as the iatrogenic complications of pelvic cancer surgery, the dysfunction pouch, and the catastrophic abdominal wall and its management and reconstruction. The final

chapter on assessing outcomes in colorectal cancer was particularly useful and will no doubt become of increasing importance.

The photographs are overall of good quality, but the book would benefit from a few more diagrams and illustrations. The chapter references are up to date and useful for further reading around individual topics of particular interest.

Overall, this is a good adjunct to the surgical bookshelf. It provides quick and balanced updates of aspects which may not necessarily be in the reader's major area of interest. It is certainly helpful to trainees preparing for examinations. I enjoyed reading it and it would be of interest to coloproctologists at all levels and also to gastroenterologists.

*Michael J Hershman, Royal Wolverhampton Hospital, Wolverhampton*

## Rotator Cuff Injuries: A Clinical Casebook

**Edited by Patrick J McMahon**  
**Springer 2018**

**Price £88.00. Pp 363**

**ISBN 978 3 319 63666 5**

This practical casebook provides an excellent overview of rotator cuff

pathologies. Its 22 chapters cover pathologies from tendonitis, cuff tears including management of subscapularis tear, to the role of tendon transfers and different arthroplasty in irreparable cuff tears.

The chapters have a case-based format, detailing case presentation, diagnosis and assessment. The authors have endeavoured to describe surgical techniques with tips and tricks, with each chapter giving a comprehensive description of surgical management, postoperative protocol and outcomes, and ending by discussing the evidence and reviewing current literature.

One key innovation in management of large irreparable rotator cuff tears in the last decade has been superior capsular reconstructions. Although this is mentioned, a further section describing a clinical case with discussion of surgical techniques and literature review would help.

This is a well-structured and easy to read handbook, that will serve as a good revision aid and a quick reference tool for the experienced clinician, as well as senior trainees and other professionals embarking on a career in shoulder surgery.

*Jae Rhee, Princess Royal Hospital, Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust, Shropshire*