

Churchill's Pocketbook of Cardiology

Neil Grubb and David Newby

Churchill Livingstone 2001

Price £24.95. Pp 552

ISBN 0 443 06221 8

Churchill's Pocketbook of Cardiology by Neil Grubb and David Newby is a welcome addition to the expanding library of cardiology guides. It is clearly written in a style that makes finding references easy. The book uses a refreshing problem-orientated approach to a wide range of clinical scenarios that are faced by the modern cardiologist. Although the book is primarily aimed at cardiologists in training, this book will also appeal to those in other acute specialities such as accident and emergency or intensive care medicine.

The book is set out in four main sections. These initially cover the basic anatomy and pathophysiology of a range of cardiac conditions before highlighting patient management



in both the inpatient and outpatient settings, with a good practical guide to the common cardiac emergencies.

The final section gives a detailed review of common investigative and interventional procedures. This includes detailed descriptions of coronary angiography, basic electrophysiology and echocardiography although the chapter on nuclear cardiology is slightly more limited. Throughout, the text is clearly set out with a series of bulleted points. In addition numerous points of importance have been highlighted to grab the readers' attention.

While no pocket guide can be all-inclusive in its approach, this book concisely covers the majority of important clinical situations commonly encountered. The sections on inpatient review and congenital heart disease are particularly useful. Overall this is an excellent pocket textbook that should appeal to a wide range of readers.

David Brull, Royal Free and UCL Medical School, London

Evidence-based Pediatrics and Child Health

Edited by Virginia A Moyer, Elizabeth

J Elliott, Robert L Davis et al

BMJ Publishing Group 2000

Price £65.00. Pp 384

ISBN 0 7279 1424 3

Over recent years the term evidence-based medicine has become almost a mantra. This textbook seeks to explain to practising clinicians the concepts and methodology required to practice evidence-based medicine. It is refreshing to see a book specifically addressing paediatric problems as it makes the topic more pertinent and meaningful.

The book is written in three sections. The first section is devoted to exploring what evidence-based medicine is and covers issues such as framing questions, finding, evaluating and applying the evidence. It would almost serve as a text on evidence-based medicine without the other sections. It is well written and uses brief clinical scenarios as a framework around which to structure the discussion.

The style throughout the book is informal, particularly in the second and third sections which are written as if one were discussing the issues with a colleague. The second section addresses

many of the screening and preventative practices within paediatrics and the third common clinical conditions.

Each chapter uses a brief clinical problem to illustrate how to look for and apply what evidence there is to the particular scenario. It is an excellent way to give concrete examples of how you should practice evidence-based medicine but does tend to become a little repetitive. Most readers are likely to read the bulk of the first section and to dip into the latter sections for examples relevant to their own clinical practice. Overall it is an excellent book that dispels the mystique surrounding the topic.

Jerry Wales, Sheffield Children's Hospital

Stell and Maran's Head and Neck Surgery (4th edn)

JC Watkinson, MN Gaze, JA Wilson

Arnold 2000

Price £85.00. Pp 520

ISBN 0 7506 33662

This is a beautifully presented book that encompasses all aspects of head and neck surgery. The clarity of the original book is maintained with a series of chapters on specific issues relating to all tumours of the head and neck followed by chapters related to tumour sites.

The book is written in an easily read style and each section is preceded by a set of bullet points. Each page is clearly marked by a chapter heading that aids cross-reference and browsing. There are many excellent diagrams and numerous high quality clinical and operative colour illustrations that enhance the text.

The topics covered are comprehensive and include sections on molecular biology, current imaging techniques, clinical outcome assessment and quality of life issues as well as the rehabilitation of speech and swallowing. There is a substantial chapter on reconstruction that includes clear detail on a range of free flaps.

Emphasis is also given to the non-surgical management of tumours in which the options of radiotherapy and chemotherapy are clearly described. In addition to a wealth of information on malignant tumours there is also a chapter on the management of trauma and stenosis of the larynx and cervical trachea. This book would be an excellent investment for educational and reference purposes for both trainees and established consultants alike.

Andrew C Swift, University Hospital Aintree, Liverpool