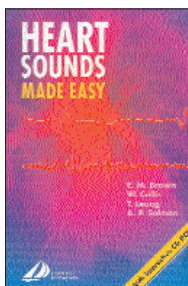


Heart Sounds Made Easy

EM Brown, W Collis, T Leung, AP Salmon
Churchill Livingstone 2002
Price £15.99. Pp 112
ISBN 0443071411

Clinical teaching aids are much needed and are being produced with increasing frequency. In cardiology the appreciation of abnormal heart sounds and murmurs has been problematic. The teacher is dependent on the availability of physical signs to provide high quality teaching. When physical signs are present it is often unclear to the teacher if the student has truly detected the sign.

This unique book and interactive CD provide an invaluable and constant source of cardiac signs. The book is concise but comprehensive and can be used independently of the CD. Learning points are tabulated for each abnormal physical sign



and background information is provided. The interactive CD also covers all relevant heart sounds with signs recorded from actual patients. The CD allows you to receive a short tutorial on each sign or to be interactive with the heart sound manipulator. For each abnormality the intensity of specific components can be increased or decreased during the cardiac cycle, allowing the student to focus on the sound of interest.

This book and CD could greatly enhance the cardiac auscultation skills of students. Their success will depend on the compatibility of the CD with computers in general use. Although the PC requirements are described and technical support via e-mail and telephone is provided, the book and CD are unlikely to prove popular unless the CD runs reliably without needing changes to the set-up of the user's PC.

Nick Robinson, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London

Advancing Clinical Governance

Edited by Myriam Lugon,
Jonathan Secker-Walker
RSM Press 2001
Price £18.50. Pp 215
ISBN 1853154717

This book follows on from a previous volume by the same authors published in 1999, shortly after the clinical governance strategy was announced. Two years on, this book reviews progress to date in some areas and offers advice on implementation.

The list of contributors is impressive. Each chapter covers an area of the governance agenda, ranging from organizational issues to a useful final chapter on resources which can help with practical aspects of implementing clinical governance. The chapters flow easily into each other despite their varied content. They do not follow a single editorial pattern and although many authors have used the case study approach, this is not universal.

Ann Lloyd offers a particularly good chapter on the role of the chief executive in clinical governance and Marcia Kelson gives a broad account about the options of bringing in patient partnerships into clinical governance activity. Kieran Sweeney's chapter on developing a strategy for the primary care groups is interesting to read and gives a coherent

approach as to how governance has been undertaken in one primary care setting.

If you are heavily involved with clinical governance in your day-to-day work (as we all should be!), much of this book's content will be familiar to you. Its strength lies in its ease of reading, its practical advice and its breath. I would recommend it for those interested in the subject.

Shelley Heard, London Department of Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education, London

Evidence-based Dementia Practice

Edited by Nawab Qizilbash, Lon S Schneider, Henry Brodaty, Pierre Tariot, Jeffrey Kaye, Helena Chui, Timo Erkinjuntti
Blackwell Science 2002
Price £75.00. Pp 893
ISBN 0632052961

A vast amount of literature has been produced on dementia recently, although dementia was first described about 100 years ago. This book has helped to 'distil what is relevant and reliable and presented it in a format that is useful to the clinicians'. Following the principles of evidence-based medicine, 82 leading experts in their fields, from 17 countries, have written the articles in this book which have been organized in six sections, each with its own editor.

Key points are given at the beginning of each article which help readers know what to expect. Methodologies are clearly stated, tables and graphs are appropriately given, conclusions are clearly written at the end and recommendations are made for clinical works and for future works.

Discussion on the usefulness and limitations of different diagnostic procedures of diagnosis of dementia, and classifying into its sub-types, is of tremendous importance. It is useful to see, after proper scientific scrutiny, how much the patients benefited from antedementia drugs. The contributors have also presented scientific analysis of treatments for non-cognitive problems of dementia.

The past, present and future of memory clinics has been covered within this book, and will be of great benefit to clinicians.

Anybody involved in expanding and improving psychogeriatric services, especially dementia services, needs a good knowledge of health economics to argue their case in various committees. This book deals with this issue comprehensively.

The book contains a vast amount of useful information and is a good source of reference to everyone who treats people with dementia.

DW Nabi, Sheffield



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