BOOK REVIEWS

Ann R Coll Surg Engl 2010; **92**: 79–82

doi 10.1308/003588410X12518836440441

Female Urology

HOWARD B GOLDMAN, SANDIP P VASAVADA

EXTENT P/H	438 pages, Hardback
PRICE/ISBN	£107.50 1588297012
PUBLISHER	Humana (Towota, NJ), 2007
REVIEWER	Ling Lee
STAR RATING	****

The aim of this book is to discuss the newer management of the three common conditions that female patients present to urogynaecologists, namely: stress urinary incontinence, overactive bladder symptoms and pelvic floor prolapse. The book finishes with 18 case studies and comments by experts.

Part 1, 'Evaluation', which has five chapters, starts with the anatomy of the pelvis. There is an excellent chapter on the neurophysiological control of the lower urinary tract that covers the influence of the higher centres on bladder function and the complexity of the actions of muscarinic and purigenic bladder receptors in normal and diseased states. The office and urodynamic evaluation of urinary incontinence is covered in the following three chapters. It would perhaps have been beneficial to include a chapter here on the various validated condition-specific and quality-of-life questionnaires for assessing women with urinary incontinence and prolapse.

Part 2, 'Treatment', makes up the bulk of the book. It starts with conservative management of incontinence and is then divided into four subsections, which discuss the non-surgical and surgical treatments on stress urinary incontinence, the overactive bladder, prolapse and fistulas/urethral diverticula. While these chapters are well researched, I was disappointed that in the chapter on mid-urethral slings the authors have quoted only two comparative studies between laparoscopic Burch colposuspension and tension-free vaginal tapes to support the sweeping change in practice from retropubic suspension to slings as the first-line surgical procedure for stress incontinence.

The discussion on oral and intravesical therapies for the overactive bladder is excellent. The literature and description on the application of botulinum toxin, neuromodulation and augmentation cystoplasty for bladder overactivity are covered in the following four chapters. In the chapter on the treatment of mixed urinary incontinence, the authors present the literature on the impact of surgery on these patients with urinary symptoms that are difficult to treat.

A formal description on the various grading systems of prolapse would have been useful in the section on the evaluation of pelvic floor prolapses.

The authors include 18 different case studies on common, yet tricky, problems faced by urogynaecologists such

as chronic pelvic pain syndromes, *de novo* or persistent incontinence/prolapse following surgery, and voiding dysfunction in the normal and neurological patient. They serve as a good platform for the reader on which to exercise diagnostic skills and to compare them to the experts' or the editors' comments. The quality of discussion varies from evidence-based answers to an algorithm of management plan.

This book achieves its aim by bringing to the reader a current view on the evaluation and treatment of urinary incontinence and prolapse. It is a concise overview on the common urogynaecological conditions and provides useful evidence to support practice as well as filling in gaps of knowledge in the less familiar areas of practice in the field of female urology.

Better Physician Writing and Speaking Skills

JOHN GARTLAND

EXTENT P/H	120 pages, Paperback
PRICE/ISBN	£19.95 1846191742
PUBLISHER	Radcliffe (Abingdon), 2007
REVIEWER	Bob Greatorex
STAR RATING	*

This 118-page paperback carries a title that is extremely relevant to today's undergraduate and postgraduate medical trainees. We live in an era when aspiring doctors and postgraduate trainees must concentrate on sciences from an early stage of their education. As a consequence, skills in the use of both written and spoken language are less well developed and the result is that the communication skills of doctors have become an issue for both patients and the profession. The book therefore carries an expectation that it will provide much-needed instruction in the art of good communication.

It is clearly written for an American market and there is occasional use of words that would be unfamiliar, though understandable, to a UK audience. It has chapters covering writing and speaking skills, communication skills, technical writing, writing for publication, conference presentation, grant applications and interpersonal skills. There is no doubt that each area is one in which young trainees often need guidance in the early stages of their careers.

The chapter content is occasionally confused, such that under the chapter headed 'Good Physician Writing is a Communication Skill' the author wanders into a discussion of verbal communication and body language. The author also advocates the avoidance of technical jargon but actually uses jargon that will lead to confusion among those unfamiliar with the finer points of English grammar.