Recent Advances in Surgery 31

IRVING TAYLOR, COLIN JOHNSON

EXTENT P/H 214 pages, Paperback
PRICE/ISBN £35.00, 9781853157196
PUBLISHER RSM Press (London), 2008
REVIEWER Graham Poston
STAR RATING ***

As general surgery further subspecialises and fragments, it must become increasingly challenging for the editors of this long-running series to stay abreast of all that is going on in our field. However, they continue to do so, each edition building on the former. The series is now essential topical background reading for MRCS candidates.

The style is relatively informal but not without structure. Key points are well laid out and illustrated, therefore easily appreciated while revising before the examination. In this edition, the editors have given a greater emphasis to gastrointestinal surgery, focusing on a number of topical and controversial areas (bariatric surgery, neo-adjuvant chemoradiotherapy for pancreatic cancer, TEMs for rectal tumours, *etc.*) with other interesting contributions in areas of surgical education, training and clinical trials. The old surgical chestnut of the use of drains is also revisited. Clearly, each edition cannot be comprehensive and should be used with its predecessors as part of a continuum.

The information presented appears accurate, while the illustrations, when used, are appropriate. Most of the references are since 2000 although there are references to older landmark publications. The indexing is sufficiently comprehensive. Overall, I believe that as with previous editions the authors have achieved their objectives.

Hospital Surgery

OMER AZIZ, SANJAY PURKAYASTHA, PARASKEVAS PARASKEVA

EXTENT P/H 854 pages, Paperback
PRICE/ISBN £29.99, 9780521682053
PUBLISHER Cambridge University Press (Cambridge), 2009
REVIEWER Tim Underwood
STAR RATING ***

Hospital Surgery is part of the Pocket Clinician series and is billed on the back cover as providing 'Expert Advice When and Where You Need It Most' in a note-based format. The book is aimed primarily at medical students and those in the early years of surgical training and is written in an accessible and very user-friendly way.

The text attempts to cover the entirety of general surgical practice and touches on those elements of emergency orthopaedics, urology and ENT required for the on-call FY1/2 doctor. It is divided into seven sections starting with peri-opera-

tive care and somewhat surprisingly finishing with clinical examination. Each section is further subdivided by topic and further still into bite-sized chunks of information laid out in a logical and sequential order. For example, the subsection covering jaundice in hepatobiliary disease contains topic headings including: definition, pathophysiology, classification, symptoms, examination and investigations, followed by a table to illustrate the differences between pre-, intra- and post-hepatic jaundice, and a helpful algorithm for management of the jaundiced patient.

There is extensive use of illustrations (although none in colour) and tables to aid both the reader's understanding and to act as a quick reference. Unfortunately, a number of the figures are too small in size and lack appropriate figure captions so that the reader must refer back to the text for an explanation. In addition, many of the management-algorithm flow diagrams feel squeezed in and hard to read. These tended not to be linked to the text and it became clear as I read a number of chapters that they are meant as stand-alone reference entries; it may have been helpful to add a 'how to use this book' section.

Overall, *Hospital Surgery* successfully fulfils its remit to provide ready access to essential information and provides the non-specialist with an introduction to surgery in general. Unfortunately, this book cannot realistically be described as pocket-sized (unless one routinely wears reinforced industrial-sized trousers) and this provides the most serious limitation to its readership. If the text was converted to an electronic format accessible on the current generation of handheld mobile devices it would be an instant hit.

Benign Breast Diseases: a surgical approach

UMA KRISHNASWAMY

EXTENT P/H 279 pages, Paperback and CD Rom
PRICE/ISBN £22.95, 8125033084
PUBLISHER Universities Press (India) Pvt Ltd (Hyderabad, India), 2009
REVIEWER Ramsay Cuttress
STAR RATING ***

Breast cancer has a high public profile but constitutes only a proportion of symptomatic referrals. Benign breast conditions in addition may be just as complex and challenging to manage as breast malignancy and, probably partly for this reason, are also commonly encountered in the subspecialty exit examinations. While the title of this book is *Benign Breast Diseases*, within the book is a description of the concept of aberrations of normal development and involution. This entire spectrum is discussed within the book.

The stated audience is those in primary care and the general surgeon with an interest in breast disease, particularly in India. The chapters of the book follow a logical sequence starting with breast development and a description of embryology

of the breast including disorders such as Poland's syndrome, hyperplasia and supernumerary breast tissue. This is followed by a chapter on the anatomy of the breast with reference to anatomy of surgical importance and then chapters on breast physiology, clinical evaluation including triple assessment and imaging. There is some repetition here since the sections on triple assessment include descriptions of imaging modalities and pathology that is also covered in the individual chapters.

The best chapters I felt were those on pathology and management of common clinical conditions. For example, the sections on the management of mastalgia and breast sepsis were concise and informative, and the section on breast sepsis included a description on the management of TB of the breast, which while not commonly seen in the UK healthcare setting was of interest.

The remainder of the book included short chapters on aesthetic surgery of the breast, prevention of benign breast disease, and treatment and diagnostic pathways. These pathways on the whole represent a safe way of management of the various conditions. Included with the book is a CD with a wealth of slides from the various illustrations, which would serve as a useful teaching resource. While one might need to refer to more detailed texts for specific clinical problems, overall I felt this book gives a good picture of common benign breast conditions and is well referenced and easy to read.

Surgery: Diagnosis and Management, 4th edn

NIGEL RAWLINSON, DEREK ALDERSON

EXTENT P/H	694 pages, Paperback
PRICE/ISBN	£29.99, 9781405129213
PUBLISHER	Wiley-Blackwell (Oxford), 2009
REVIEWER	Alex Mirnezami
STAR RATING	****

Rawlinson and Alderson have produced a welcome and very readable revision to one of the best-selling general surgical textbooks. The fourth edition of the previously named *Dunn's Surgical Diagnosis and Management* is aimed at medical students in their final years or junior surgeons in their foundation and core-training years.

The text is structured into two parts. There is an initial section covering the daily tasks involved in patient care with which all junior surgeons have to be familiar. These include specific sections on the patient admission process, preparations for surgery, organising operating lists, dealing with peri-operative medical problems, and surgical infusions and prescriptions. Updated sections on laparoscopic and endoscopic surgery and the role of the junior surgeon in assisting and postoperative care of these patients are a welcome addition.

In the second part, specific surgical subspecialties and clinical problems are considered. The information presented is accurate and up to date and the common conditions encountered are presented by experts and specialists in the chosen field. Throughout the text, the information is presented in a pragmatic fashion under subheadings for describing the condition, 'recognising the pattern', 'proving the diagnosis' and management options.

Diagrams are few and not in colour; however, they are accurate and in keeping with the book's concise and pocket-sized design. Operations are described in a succinct fashion and 'procedure profiles' are provided for common operations explaining the likely blood requirements, type of anaesthesia used, operating times, in-patient length of stay and duration of time to return to normal activity. In short, all the information is included that junior surgeons may be called upon to know and often are unclear about as they are not found in other similar texts.

Overall, this book is a vital addition to any junior surgeon and medical student's library and covers a comprehensive range of subjects in a very user-friendly fashion.

Erratum

On page 179 of the March 2010 issue of the *Annals* we published a review of the *Handbook of Venous Disorders*, 3rd edn. London: Hodder Arnold; 2009. ISBN 9780340938805.

The author of this title is Peter Glociczki (ed); the authors that were originally listed were incorrect. The editor apologises for this error and for any confusion caused.