This 180-page book addresses the law that regulates the creation and maintenance of health records, and how access to the record is regulated. It sets detailed standards for all these activities. The book is targeted at all healthcare workers, together with the administrative staff and those who manage health organisations.

The author's style is informal, attempting to blend the duties and requirements that are created by the legal rules with the guidelines and codes of practice that have been derived from them. The result is a prescriptive guide to good practice in record keeping and numerous scenarios and examples are cited in text boxes to illustrate both good and bad practice. The style is directed at the entirety of the audience, which makes for interesting if not invariably relevant reading.

The book is authoritative and accurate, covering every aspect of the creation and use of health records. Paradoxically, its title is somewhat misleading, since the recurring theme is that if one follows the standards the book prescribes, a court appearance is made somewhat less likely. There are no illustrations but the text is helpfully interrupted by case studies, which assist in understanding the details of the rules applying to health records. Each of the 19 chapters is well referenced and the text is supported by both a glossary and detailed indexing.

The book fulfils the author's aims and reflects her wide experience as a teacher of law. Although not a book that every individual surgeon would want or need, it is, nevertheless, a valuable and most unusual compendium of information, since it gathers information from the diverse legal specialities of consent, confidentiality, data protection, evidence and judicial approaches to provide a single point of reference. The book will provide answers to the vast majority of the questions that emerge relating to healthcare records.

Head and Neck Cancer: An Evidence-Based Team Approach

ERIC M GENDEN, MARK A VARVARES

EXTENT P/H	217 pages, Hardback
PRICE/ISBN	€119.95, 9781588905086
PUBLISHER	Thieme (Stuttgart), 2008
REVIEWER	Andy Burns
STAR RATING	****

This book deals with the contemporary management of head and neck cancer. It is a useful addition to the field as it is clearly and concisely written and well illustrated. It is aimed at providing surgeons and oncologists who practise in this field with an evidence-based guide to the subject.

Experienced clinicians will, I am sure, find this a useful review, while it will offer trainees a good overview for examination revision and for reference while training.

It is written in a traditional style with chapters on individual tumour sites. The emphasis on management is very surgical although each chapter has information on the role of radiotherapy and, where appropriate, chemoradiotherapy. The details of chemotherapy are very brief and there is only passing reference to targeted therapy with eGFR receptor antagonists.

At the end of each chapter there is inclusion of some case studies. These usually represent case histories from a range of presentations at different stages for that tumour site; the different treatment options are discussed and the decision-making process is outlined.

All sites and subsites are covered and there are chapters on 'the unknown primary' and 'carcinomas of the skin of the head, face and neck'. There is also a chapter on surveillance of the patient. This details regular post-treatment cross-sectional imaging and the routine use of follow up PET-CT, which is at variance to standard UK practice. However, it is informative and the case studies included with this chapter demonstrate some false positive investigations that can occur with this imaging modality.

All the chapters are well referenced. There are numerous photographic illustrations, which are generally relevant and of good quality. There are several line diagrams; these are of mixed quality and there are some errors and omissions in their placement and annotation. There is also an index that is comprehensive and accurate. In summary, this book gives a good overview of current head and neck cancer management that will provide useful revision for experienced and junior clinicians alike.

Atlas of Endocrine Surgical Techniques, 1st edn

QUAN-YANG DUH, ORLO H CLARK, ELECTRON KEBEBEW

EXTENT P/H	260 pages, Hardback
PRICE/ISBN	£230.00, 9781416048442
PUBLISHER	Elsevier (London), 2009
REVIEWER	James Kirkby-Bott
STAR RATING	****

This book is the endocrine volume of a well-established American series aimed at describing safe surgical techniques. It is presented in A4 with text on the left-hand page and images, graphs and diagrams on the right. This is an attractive format but the images are very small: the CT scans are the size of a business card and very difficult in which to discern detail. Given that this is often a single

image set in the middle of an A4 page, it is unclear why larger images are not used.

The book is made up of sections: thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal and pancreas. The sections are composed of several chapters, each detailing an area of surgery for that gland. The chapters have been well chosen and are written in an accessible style following the subheadings: clinical considerations, pre-operative, operative and postoperative. There is excellent coverage of all the surgical themes, especially laparoscopic and minimal access surgery. The adrenal section has chapters on open (cancer) surgery, trans-peritoneal and posterior approaches, reflecting modern practice. At the end of each chapter is a 'pitfalls and pearls' section, which distils the main messages from each chapter.

The chapter on nerve monitoring is one of the book's many high points, crammed with evidence and a wealth of personal experience. Other highlights are the adrenal and pancreatic sections, in which the book's format really comes into its own. In the thyroid section cancer strategies are divided between small and locally advanced cancers, which is a novel and intuitive approach.

The reader can access the text and reproductions online after registering. This enables one to see the very small images from the book at a more suitable size. Such an atlas would benefit from videos of the techniques, which the online facility does not incorporate; this is a real shame. However, unlike some other Elsevier texts, the online access is free. I really enjoyed this book even if the size of some of the reproductions was frustrating. It is well thought out and will be a useful reference text.

Organ Donation and Transplantation after Cardiac Death

DAVID TALBOT, ANTHONY M D'ALESSANDRO, PAOLO MUIESAN

EXTENT P/H	322 pages, Hardback
PRICE/ISBN	£75.00, 9780199217335
PUBLISHER	Oxford University Press (Oxford), 2009
REVIEWER	Neville Jamieson
STAR RATING	****

Technical refinements, improved immunosuppression and long-term care have transformed transplantation from an

experimental procedure to an established life-saving and life-prolonging treatment with good survival rates in both the short- and long-term. However, the issues surrounding organ donation remain one of the most difficult areas in transplantation and the shortage of donor organs is the major limiting factor, with growing numbers of patients on waiting lists world-wide. A variety of factors including improved road safety and changes in neurosurgical management have led to a decreased number of conventional heart-beating brain-stem-dead donors in some countries and has prompted a resurgence of interest in donation from donors after cardiac standstill – originally called 'non heart beating' donation but now more commonly referred to as 'donation after cardiac death' as in the title of this book.

This volume is, therefore, extremely timely, addressing a rapidly developing field. Both editors have long track records in this area and they have chosen a wide range of international experts as contributors. On the whole, they have succeeded in covering the field comprehensively. Like any multi-author volume there is some degree of repetition of material from chapter to chapter but this leaves the virtue that chapters can be read as a complete source by those only wishing to dip into the volume for specific topics. Areas covered include techniques of retrieval, organ preservation, resuscitation after retrieval, organ assessment and the outcomes of transplantation in kidneys, livers and lungs retrieved from such donors.

The commonest (but not the only) form of donation after cardiac death is retrieval of organs from patients where supportive treatment has been withdrawn in an intensive-care setting. Some of the thorniest issues in such donations arise in the management of these patients prior to their death and in the immediate period after cardiac standstill. These issues are remarkably well rehearsed and reviewed in the chapter on legal and ethical issues by Sam Shemie and Michael DeVita, who have managed to put together an impressive review of the situation and the relevant legal framework across the world.

This book will be of interest and value to all working in the area of solid-organ transplantation. It contains information relevant to established consultants in transplantation, trainees and both recipient and donor-transplant co-ordinators.

For a listing of *Books Received by the Library* between November 2009 and September 2010 please see online *Table of Contents* for the November issue