Book review

Oxford Handbook of Medical Imaging. MJ Darby, DA Barron, RE Hyland. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 2012. 440 pp.
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Radiology is becoming increasingly more relevant in clinical practice. Most patients in an acute specialty undergo some form of imaging to aid diagnosis.

Furthermore, radiological techniques are also increasingly employed in the treatment of patients. With the advent of more advanced imaging methods, a good understanding of the clinical value of the different modalities available is essential.

This thorough but concisely written book, which follows the popular *Oxford Handbook* format, is suitable for students and clinicians, especially junior doctors. The authors begin with an overview of the various imaging modalities, with the associated advantages and drawbacks.

The book then follows a systems-based approach, where the relevance of the different modalities is explored in more detail. Each system is categorised into

three sections. The first section lists the common radiological features and differential diagnoses to be considered. The second section lists common presenting complaints, appropriate investigations for each and the value of each modality used. The final section focuses on common medical and surgical conditions in more depth.

This book provides numerous tips for junior doctors, such as key information to provide when requesting imaging and current guidelines on imaging. It also contains pearls of wisdom, like "lateral chest radiographs are better in identifying smaller pleural effusions". Other strengths of this book are its illustrations and high-quality images.

Overall, this book highlights the different arrays of modern medical imaging available today. It is well balanced and presented in a manner that allows easy accessibility and, as such, acts as an excellent companion for junior doctors.

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