
Book Reviews

Critiques de livres

DAY SURGERY. PRINCIPLES AND NURSING PRACTICE. Edited by Heather Cahill and Ian Jackson. 238 pp. Illust. Baillière Tindall, London, UK; Harcourt Brace & Co. Canada, Ltd., Toronto. 1997. Can\$44.95. ISBN 0-7020-2028-1

This book is divided into 13 chapters that cover all aspects of surgical nursing care. Although the authors have identified their book as a resource for day surgery, almost all the concepts described apply to any surgical patient.

The authors make a significant distinction between day surgery patients and inpatients, which I have not well understood and can only assume that major differences exist in the structure of the health care systems of the United Kingdom and Canada to explain the distinction. All aspects of patient care are described by the authors with the understanding that day surgery patients require a very different approach somehow defined as more complex and requiring more exquisite care. This distracts the reader experienced in surgical care in both day surgery and inpatient settings. The experienced reader knows that patient issues do not depend so much on the setting as the circumstances of the illness in the patient's life.

A few statements warrant criticism: "Day Surgery is a more patient-oriented approach to care"; "Thankfully, Day Surgery nurses are not as obsessed with bladder-emptying as inpatient nurses"; "Day Surgery patients are considered to be the most anxious of all surgical patients." These statements are debatable and certainly do not serve any purpose. On many occasions, it almost seems as if day surgery care and inpatient care are 2 different (if not opposing) components of the health care delivery struc-

ture. The last chapter further describes day surgery as a "specialty."

In discussing the different roles of the nursing personnel, the authors advocate that scrub technicians assist surgeons, saying that "trained monkeys" could perform that role. The Association of Operating Room Nurses and Operating Room Nurses Association of Canada standards advocate, however, that nurses should scrub and circulate alternately to maintain good skills at all levels in the operating room and thus ensure optimal patient care. Because they obviously want to cover their topics well, the authors go from the most theoretical level (general theory on stress, nursing models) to the most specific (content of an emergency cart, description of electrocardiographic PQRST waves, normal values for a biochemistry profile). This manner of covering topics does not allow the development of any theoretical model at any satisfactory level and in fact limits the possibility of listing specific details in such a way that the book becomes a practical handbook.

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HEAD AND NECK SURGERY. CD-ROM. Jatin P. Shah. Mosby-Lynton House, London, UK; Harcourt Brace & Co. Canada, Ltd., Toronto, 1997. Can\$515. ISBN 0-7234-2489-6

In the realm of multimedia CD-ROMs, this one stands out as one of the best that we have seen, on both clinical and technical grounds.

The CD-ROM opens with a main menu screen that details all the different "chapters." The viewer can then choose a variety of subtopics related to the main chapter. The main screen for each subtopic details the pathophysiology, presentation, clinical, radiologic and laboratory findings and surgical techniques for the subtopic. The information presented is complete, succinct and accurate and makes excellent use of the multimedia properties that are currently available on most modern computers. The text is supported by colour photographs and videos of the operative techniques. A single mouse click brings the viewer up to another screen with several relevant cadaveric anatomy dissections. Another mouse click brings up an "outcomes" screen, with both text and charts representing the prognosis and outcomes of the prescribed therapies for each condition.

In total there are over 2500 screen-sized photographs and charts, almost 60 minutes of narrated video clips and 122 interactively labelled anatomy dissections.

From a technical standpoint, we installed the CD-ROM on 4 computers: 2 Macintosh computers (Macs) and 2 personal computers (PCs). The CD-ROM comes packaged with QuickTime, an application that supports playback of the video segments. Installation on the Macs could not have been easier. We ran into some minor problems installing the QuickTime application on one of the PCs, but overall installation of the PCs went smoothly also.

The various screens are esthetically designed and easy to use, and the presentation of full-screen photographs as well as the various video segments occurs quickly and seamlessly. The quality of the photographs is fantastic.

Every photograph, chart, video and segment of text is fully exportable to presentation software or other applications using the "Save" command.

The only criticisms we have of the CD-ROM are on technical grounds. At times, it is difficult to navigate through the different screens. Occasionally, we were forced to return to the main menu to get back to a previous screen. The search function is slow and does not prioritize finds, although the CD-ROM is equipped with an exhaustive hyperlinked index that makes for easy searching.

This CD-ROM is a must-have for any surgical residency that incorporates head and neck surgery into its curriculum. It is an invaluable teaching tool, and the quality of the photographs and video clips is such that they can be incorporated into the surgeon's presentations.

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PRESENTING SCIENCE WITH IMPACT: PRESENTATION SKILLS FOR SCIENTISTS, MEDICAL RESEARCHERS & HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS. Cindy Todoroff. 112 pp. Illust. Trifolium Books Inc., Toronto, 1997. Can \$16.95. ISBN 1-895579-87-2

Like many of you, I have sat through numerous education-related and scientific talks that do more to cure insomnia than to communicate information. For this reason, I began providing learning experiences for medical students on how to give a lecture. A small group session on the principles is followed by video-

taping the students giving short lectures. As a group, we critique the lectures in a positive, nonthreatening manner. The students' response has been overwhelmingly positive, and subsequent presentations, as they progress through their training, are noticeably improved. When we ask for feedback, most often they ask to be videotaped again, this time presenting scientific data.

Todoroff has written an excellent, short, easy-to-read text on presenting scientific materials that covers preparation, organization of materials, selection, design and use of visual aids, platform and delivery skills and how to answer questions. Each chapter is organized and clearly formatted to help you learn effectively. She provides appropriate examples in each chapter, putting into context the learning issues covered in the following pages. The text is concise, which makes for easy reading and better retention of information. Many chapters have checklists and aids to help the reader. Each chapter ends with a simple exercise to reinforce the material just covered.

The most important issues related to delivering scientific materials in both small and large forums are well covered. Notable are Todoroff's suggestions for using body language, minimizing nervousness and handling tricky questions. The chapter on audiovisual materials provides a useful overview of the many presentation softwares available for use with computer-assisted presentations.

I liked this book and highly recommend it to any person who has been asked to give a presentation. Although the book is aimed at junior and intermediate presenters, we all know that even the most seasoned speaker can benefit from tips.

Finally, I wholeheartedly agree with Todoroff that improving your

presentations requires several key steps: first, recognizing you are missing the ever-important "presentation chip" that the complete researcher has; second, finding your missing chip by reading this excellent book on improving your presentation skills; and finally learning how to use your chip by constant practice. For those of you in supervisory positions working with young researchers, buy them each a copy of this book and organize practice sessions, preferably on video so you can help them learn.

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TEXTBOOK OF ENDOCRINE SURGERY. Orlo H. Clark and Quan-Yang Duh. 688 pp. Illust. W.B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia; Harcourt Brace & Co. Canada, Ltd., Toronto. 1997. Can\$211. ISBN 0-7216-5882-1

Practising surgeons who have to deal with patient endocrine problems should be familiar with this book. Authored by 120 internationally recognized authorities, thoroughly compiled, organized and edited by the dean of the international endocrine surgical community, Dr. Orlo Clark, and his associate, Quan-Yang Duh, this premier work belongs in every medical library, every surgical resident's workroom and on the desk of all surgeons interested in endocrine surgery — surgery of the thyroid, parathyroid, adrenals and pancreas.

Eighty-one chapters or topics extensively cover all clinical endocrine conditions and problems treated by the practising surgeon. The chapters

are uniformly subtitled so basic physiology, anatomy, clinical presentation, diagnosis and management can quickly be scanned for practical advice or can be studied in depth as needed. Each chapter concludes with a summary and pertinent references for a quick overview or detailed study, whether by the seeking student or the reflecting surgeon.

Illustrations and tables, although not profuse, seem adequate, even though the pages are heavy with double-column script. In spite of this the book attracts and entices the reader to seek more of the information provided.

This book is without rival today in presenting the content and practice of a rising new international discipline — endocrine surgery.

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A TEXTBOOK OF PAEDIATRIC ORTHOPAEDICS. FROM THE ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, MELBOURNE. Edited by Nigel S. Broughton. 336 pp. Illust. W.B. Saunders Company Limited, London; Harcourt Brace & Company, Toronto. 1997. Can\$145. ISBN 0-7020-1962-3

This book is one department's effort at writing a comprehensive textbook for residents preparing for the qualifying examination.

Overall, the book is clearly laid out and has a crisp look to it that I found made it easy to use. It is well illustrated and contains many well-reproduced radiographs.

The book starts with several nice chapters on the assessment of and the

approach to pediatric orthopedic patients. The next section deals with generalized conditions that affect more than one organ system or more than one anatomic area. It includes a good chapter on normal variants, which should be read by all parents. The next chapters deal with anatomic areas, such as the knee, and the book ends with chapters on pediatric trauma.

Although this text is short and concise, it is surprisingly complete. It covers well the basic material on most problems encountered by the pediatric orthopedist. The chapters on trauma are valuable and distinguish the book from other general textbooks.

This book is ideally suited to those beginning their residency who want to gain a firm foundation on which to build their knowledge base. As a Canadian examiner I do not think it meets its stated goal of preparing the resident for the Fellowship examination. There is not sufficient depth, and many of the controversies are left out for that purpose. One example is in the section on lateral condylar fractures, where it is stated that delayed treatment is more difficult; but the options available are not discussed.

Every hospital that teaches pediatric orthopedics should include this textbook in the library and every resident should read this book early in training as an introduction, then move on to the more in-depth books and finally round out knowledge with journal articles. This book is one that should be read from cover to cover to build the foundation of knowledge. It should not be used as a reference book. If read first it would make Lovell and Winters' *Pediatric Orthopedics* easier to read and more meaningful. This textbook will also be useful for medical students to use as a reference book for a more in-depth

look at certain pediatric orthopedic conditions of interest.

Overall, I would rate this book highly. It would be a valuable addition to the medical library.

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CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE. TEXTBOOK OF ANGIOCARDIOGRAPHY. Volume I. Robert M. Freedom, John B. Mawson, Shi-Joon Yoo and Leland N. Benson. 662 pp. Illust. Futura Publishing Company, Inc., Armonk, NY. 1997. US\$275. ISBN 0-87993-656-8 (2-volume set)

CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE. TEXTBOOK OF ANGIOCARDIOGRAPHY. Volume II. Robert M. Freedom, John B. Mawson, Shi-Joon Yoo and Leland N. Benson. 767 pp. Illust. Futura Publishing Company, Inc., Armonk, NY. 1997. US\$275. ISBN 0-87993-656-8 (2-volume set)

A textbook on congenital heart disease from Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children has the unenviable task of maintaining the standard of excellence set by Keith, Rowe and Vlad in their *Heart Disease in Infancy and Childhood*. Drs. Freedom, Mawson, Yoo and Benson have successfully done this in their new reference of angiocardiology in congenital heart disease.

Although directed mainly to angiographers working in the field of pediatric heart disease, it is clear that everyone involved in the care of this

patient population will benefit from this book. Pediatric cardiac surgeons will appreciate the clear, concise description of surgically relevant angiographic features. These include examples of coronary artery patterns in transposition of the great arteries, subaortic anatomy in single ventricles and flow patterns after bidirectional Glenn procedures. Where appropriate, morphologic correlation is provided along with photographs of anatomic specimens and diagrams. A concise, pointed discussion is provided at the start of each chapter emphasizing relevant issues for decision-making in patient management. These discussions will be appreciated by all, including medical students rotating through the service. Importantly, new advances in catheter intervention methods of angioplasty and occlusion are discussed where applicable. The expertise of the contributing authors is obvious in their directed discussions.

As a reference textbook of angiography, the book's success depends largely on the scope and quality of the illustrations. With the hospital's long history in treating patients with congenital heart disease, it is not surprising that there are numerous examples of the different anatomic conditions. But what is unique is the consistent, superb quality of the illustrations, which emphasize the key features. The numerous photographs of anatomic specimens and diagrams enhance the instructional quality of the angiograms and are of equally excellent quality.

The book is sensibly organized, progressing in a "segmental" fashion through the various abnormalities associated with the individual cardiac chambers and their connections. The topics presented thoroughly encompass the field of pediatric cardiology, and the text includes a chapter on conjoined twins and ectopia cordis. An extensive, up-to-date list of references is

provided at the end of each chapter.

The great effort put forth by this team of experienced authors is obvious from the quality and scope of this work. Anyone involved with the care of patients with congenital heart disease will benefit from studying this textbook. Although echocardiography has assumed a larger diagnostic role in this field, angiocardiology remains an important instrument in the management of these patients. Without hesitation I recommend that all libraries consider this excellent book as an important reference source on pediatric cardiac angiography and put a copy on their shelves.

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À L'ATTENTION DES RÉSIDENTS ET DES DIRECTEURS DES DÉPARTEMENTS DE CHIRURGIE

LE PRIX MACLEAN-MUELLER

Le *Journal canadien de chirurgie* offre chaque année un prix de 1000 \$ pour le meilleur manuscrit rédigé par un résident ou un fellow canadien d'un programme de spécialité qui n'a pas terminé sa formation ou n'a pas accepté de poste d'enseignant. Le manuscrit primé au cours d'une année civile sera publié dans un des premiers numéros (février ou avril) de l'année suivante et les autres manuscrits jugés publiables pourront paraître dans un numéro ultérieur du Journal.

Il ne doit pas avoir été présenté ou publié ailleurs. Il faut le soumettre au *Journal canadien de chirurgie* au plus tard le 1er octobre, à l'attention du Dr J.L. Meakins, corédacteur, *Journal canadien de chirurgie*, Département de chirurgie, pièce S10.34, Hôpital Royal Victoria, 687, avenue des Pins ouest, Montréal (Québec) H3A 1A1.