

## Book Reviews

**Andrew's Diseases of the Skin: Clinical Dermatology. Ninth edition.** By Richard B. Odom, William D. James, and Timothy G. Berger. 1135 pp, illustrated. Philadelphia, WB Saunders, 2000. \$115. ISBN 0-7216-5832-6.

Clinical dermatology continues to be one of the more challenging components of family practice. The patient comes into your office with a series of signs and symptoms culminating in a rash. Describing the rash as well as defining its cause is a perfect example of dealing with the undifferentiated complaint. *Diseases of the Skin* is a useful resource in helping family physicians face these situations.

This book contains 37 chapters on skin disorders, starting with basic structure and function, then covering processes of disease, such as connective tissue diseases, viral diseases, and malignancies. The focus of each chapter are the signs and symptoms and then treatment strategies. While the reading is quite dense, the information contained has sufficient depth to allow appropriate care of patients. Many of the most helpful chapters are organized around clinical features, etiology, histopathology, differential diagnosis, treatment, and prevention. Unfortunately, this structure is not uniform throughout the book.

This book would be especially helpful once you have a good idea of the diagnosis. It would be more useful for gaining greater depth of knowledge about particular diseases rather than as a quick reference in the heat of clinical care. Although there are more than 1,200 illustrations in this book, they are all in black and white and are not designed to assist in recognition or diagnosis. The illustrations help reinforce commentary in the text.

Overall, this book would be an excellent reference for family physicians, especially those with an emphasis on dermatologic disorders within their practice. It would also be useful for resident learning libraries.

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**Medical Disorders During Pregnancy. Third edition.** Edited by William M. Barron, Marshall D. Lindheimer, and John M. Davison. 648 pp, illustrated. St. Louis, Mosby, 2000. \$79. ISBN 0-323-00772-4.

This textbook is now in its third edition and brings together contributions from 31 authors. The editors maintain the same format that has been successful in previous editions. Each chapter provides a concise and practical discussion of disease based on up-to-date references and offers a number of tables, graphs, and algorithms to enhance the usability of its content. The 19 chapters in this edition are divided by organ system. In

addition, this edition includes resourceful chapters on drug abuse, psychiatric problems, critical care, the effect of embryonic and fetal exposure to x-rays, and guidelines for prescribing drugs to pregnant women. The editors have devoted separate, full chapters to hypertension and diabetes mellitus.

Each chapter is preceded by an outline giving the reader a quick view of the content of that chapter. The physiology of each organ system in normal gestation is followed with the clinical presentation, the diagnosis, and management of disease processes. Each chapter contains well-thought-out tables and algorithms that serve as quick reference guides for the busy physician. Useful illustrations are included where necessary, and there are several color plates of common dermatologic rashes and Doppler flow studies. In addition, a reference section that is current and well researched follows every chapter. The index is reliable, well planned, and user friendly. This edition has added a new appendix that includes 48 graphs that depict frequently sought biochemical tests measured serially throughout normal gestation, which some readers might find interesting.

The editors state that the "major aims of the text are to enhance the ability of the general internist and medical subspecialist to (1) render more effective consultation when called on to see a pregnant patient with a medical disorder, and (2) provide appropriate pregnancy management and counseling for women of childbearing age who have a chronic medical disease." I have to agree that this text does indeed meet these goals; however, family physicians who practice obstetrics will find this textbook just as helpful in caring for their obstetric patients.

Overall, I believe that this textbook is by far one of the best references written regarding medical disorders that can occur during pregnancy. The writing is clear and to the point, and it provides practical information that providers can implement into practice. This text would make a wonderful addition to any bookshelf and complement any general obstetric text that a physician might already possess.

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**A Clinical Atlas of 101 Common Skin Diseases with Histopathologic Correlation.** By A. Bernard Ackerman, Helmut Kerl, Jorge Sanchez, Ying Guo, Angelika Hofer, Paul Kelly, Tetsu Kimura, Giovanni Borroni, Charles Crutcheifield, Volker Steinkraus, and Wolfgang Weyers. 662 pp, illustrated. New York, Ardor Scribendi, 2000. \$125 (paper). ISBN 1-8933357-10-4.

The intended audience for this dermatology atlas is wide-ranging—from medical students to seasoned dermatologists and pathologists. The book has much to