

The next two sections cover the basic Internet tools in greater detail, and the last two sections pinpoint specific medical resources. These sections might seem to overemphasize the minutia; nevertheless, they display an important feature of the book—comprehensiveness. Hidden in this part of the book are several gems. For instance, although I have been on-line for years, I learned several new ways to use distribution lists. These newly gained skills have immediately increased my enjoyment and use of the Internet.

This book provides a reasonable introduction to medicine on the Internet for both experienced users and the uninitiated, and is pertinent for both lay persons and medical professionals. Nonetheless it has some shortcomings. For example, although it has a detailed table of contents, it has no index, making it difficult at times to find answers to specific questions. A more comprehensive discussion on how to find the fastest Internet access provider would have been useful. Traffic jams on the information highway cause many people to lose interest quickly, which is especially true for busy clinicians.

Overall, I cautiously recommend this book to family physicians. It is inexpensive and provides a good starting point for new users. After getting on-line, however, finding medical resources is probably best accomplished by using an Internet search engine such as YAHOO! (<http://www.yahoo.com>) or the Open Text Index (<http://index.opentext.net>). Anyone devoted to the development of medical resources on the Internet should have this book.

Thomas F. Heston, MD
Family Medicine of Southwest Washington
Vancouver, Wash

Fundamentals of Chest Radiology. By Andrew Mebolic, Loren Ketai, and Richard Lofgren. Philadelphia, WB Saunders, 1996. 245 pp., illustrated. \$38 (paper). ISBN 0-7216-5400-2.

This text was written for “novice radiology residents and residents in family practice and internal medicine.” The text emphasizes adult chest radiology and, according to the authors, is specifically targeted to help learners “use chest radiology to solve diagnostic problems.”

The text, which appears to be best suited for hospital-based trainees, assumes that the most modern imaging modalities are available and refers helpfully to high-resolution and spiral computed tomography. Accordingly, this paperback volume would suit well the needs of those who might profit from reading a chapter or two before rounds or a case presentation. Such readers would find a helpful table of contents listing chapters with clinically useful components, clear handsome photographs, and concise language. The first chapters give a review of chest radiology, with normal variants and artifacts. Eleven chapters detail intrathoracic chest pathology, and a final chapter discusses chest wall problems. Trauma, mammography, vascular contrast studies, pediatric radiology, and parasitic diseases are either discussed briefly or omitted.

The text’s well-organized and commonsense approach to problems would make this volume handy for residents in family practice programs, who would find quick access to relevant pages and illustrations either by specific disease (index) or general radiologic categories (table of contents). A good balance of fundamentals, common problems, and interesting comments makes the book a readable and useful addition to a personal library. It would be especially valuable on the adult medicine service or in the radiology reading room. The absence of chapters on pediatric chest radiology and the limited discussion of trauma would mean readers would need other texts to complement this one, a relative shortcoming that authors might take into consideration for future editions.

H. John Blossom, MD
Fresno, Calif

Emergency Management of Skeletal Injuries. Edited by Ernest Ruiz and James J. Cicero. 568 pp., illustrated. St. Louis, Mosby-Year Book, 1995. \$110. ISBN 0-8016-7243-0.

This book accomplishes what many other books have tried and failed to do: it provides a well-organized, well-referenced, and well-illustrated discussion of orthopedic injuries. The chapters are organized by anatomic region, and some chapters are devoted entirely to one type of fracture, eg, “Fractures of the Humeral Shaft.” The book also includes chapters that discuss general principles of injury evaluation, prehospital care, pain management, and immobilization. Each chapter includes a description of the important anatomic considerations, mechanism of injury, physical examination, radiographic findings, and management guidelines.

The strengths of *Emergency Management of Skeletal Injuries* are its consistent and readable style, its superb illustrations and radiographs, its broad coverage of a wide range of injuries, and its excellent discussions of controversial aspects of management. The illustrations are among the best of any orthopedic text available. The pertinent anatomy is shown without being exhaustively detailed, and line drawings are often combined with radiographs to illustrate important points. The chapter on immobilization showing step-wise illustrations for cast and splint application is especially well done. The only drawback of this book for family physicians, especially those who handle a fair amount of trauma, is the emphasis on initial management; there is less extensive discussion of definitive and follow-up care. Indications for referral for operative management are covered, and the length of treatment or immobilization is discussed for most injuries.

Although the intended audience is emergency medicine physicians, family physicians will find this book will help them manage fractures, dislocations, and soft tissue trauma. It currently surpasses in scope and practicality any other orthopedic text written for primary care.

M. Patrice Eiff, MD
Portland, Ore