

## Book Reviews

**Breast Disease.** Edited by Douglas J. Marchant. 285 pp., illustrated. Philadelphia: WB Saunders, 1997. \$49.95. ISBN 0-7216-6429-6.

This excellent reference is for all physicians, but is especially useful for family physicians and other primary care physicians. The editor, Dr. Douglas J. Merchant, an emeritus professor of surgery and obstetrics-gynecology at Tubbs University School of Medicine, apparently has extensive experience in the area of breast diseases. Merchant has written five of the chapters. The 22 contributors also have equal credentials in this area. The foreword is written by Vincent L. Hunt, MD, a professor and chairman of the Department of Family Medicine at Brown University. He had extensive input into the content and layout of the text and stresses the role of primary care physicians in the evaluation and management of breast lesions in women.

The book is divided into two 12-chapter parts, each with its own introduction. The first part deals with benign conditions, and the second part deals with contemporary management of breast cancer. Part 1 contains chapters on the functional anatomy and physiology of the female breast, as well as medicolegal issues, in addition to the usual topics, such as nipple discharge, fibrocystic changes, breast feeding, mastodynia, and other benign problems.

The second part, which offers a thorough review of breast cancer, also includes chapters on plastic surgery, breast cancer in pregnancy, psychosocial issues, and risk factors in addition to screening, diagnostic evaluation, and the various treatment modalities that are discussed individually by chapter. The appendix, A Primer for Primary Care Providers, evaluates common breast problems. The reader will find this algorithmic chapter to be helpful at times when a quick decision is needed. The number of pictures and drawings is reasonable for a text this size, and they are of high quality.

Although this text is highly suited for primary care physicians, physicians practicing in other fields will also find this resource to be valuable. I agree with Dr. Hunt's descriptions that *Breast Disease* is a "concise but comprehensive and authoritative text written for physicians that provide primary care to women with breast disease." The chapters, which are laid out in a problem-oriented approach, allow the reader to focus easily on material that is appropriate for the clinical situation. I found the chapter on medicolegal issues to be particularly valuable, considering that delay in diagnosis of breast cancer is a main source of malpractice litigation, and I recommend it as reading for risk-management courses.

In summary, not many texts are devoted to the topic of breast disease, and Merchant has done a highly respectable job of covering the topic in a reader-friendly fashion. Clearly, because of the impact of this disease

on the health of women, the subject deserves its own reference, and I would recommend this book for the library of physicians who take care of women with breast diseases.

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**Essentials of Musculoskeletal Care.** Edited by Robert K. Snider. 686 pp., illustrated. Rosemont, Ill: American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, 1997. \$95 (paper). ISBN 0-89203-162-X.

This textbook is a collaborative effort between orthopedic surgeon authors and primary care physician reviewers to provide the reader with a quick and easy reference for many musculoskeletal conditions. The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons published the book, and the American Academy of Pediatrics has endorsed it. Emphasis is placed on diagnosis and indications for referral, and the intent of the authors is to take the reader from patient complaint to a likely diagnosis.

*Essentials of Musculoskeletal Care* is organized into two general sections (General Orthopaedics and Pediatric Orthopaedics) and seven anatomic sections. Each anatomic section begins with a pain diagram, showing likely pain locations for the conditions discussed in that section and an overview of the diagnoses and physical examination of the region. The authors use a systematic approach to each musculoskeletal condition, addressing synonyms, definitions, clinical symptoms, examination findings, diagnostic tests, differential diagnoses, adverse outcomes, treatment options, and indications for referral. The content is very readable, and the systematic organization makes it easy to find information quickly.

The photographs and anatomic illustrations are helpful and complement the text well. The photographs of physical examination techniques and rehabilitation exercises are especially good. The extensive index will help the reader quickly turn to the right page to find the information needed.

Overall, this excellent reference book will help the busy clinician manage the musculoskeletal problems seen in a primary care setting. Its advantages are the sheer number of conditions discussed (approximately 300), the systematic approach used, and the accurate and helpful diagnosis and treatment tips. The drawback of this type of quick reference text is its lack of in-depth coverage of the conditions discussed. This disadvantage is overshadowed by its easy-to-use format, which allows the reader to look up a condition, such as hammer toe, quickly and get useful advice.

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