

hensive coverage of therapy. There are 70 table illustrations in this edition, an alphabetic list of common ICD-9-CM codes inside the front cover, and a final chapter on reference intervals for the interpretation of laboratory tests.

This book is authority based rather than evidence based, and references are not included. This lack of references might soon be a shortcoming, as primary care physicians are demanding more often evidence-based practice recommendations. This book offers the type of information you might expect to receive during a telephone consultation with a subspecialist, and mostly you accept it as correct and current practice. Although most of the chapters are newly authored, a few are by the same author, and the material is unchanged from last year's edition. An example is the chapter on non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. In a changing field such as cancer therapy, this causes me to question the currency of the drug regimens described.

In summary, on an every 2- to 3-year basis, *Conn's Current Therapy* remains a good buy for the practicing physician. I use Post-it flags to mark pages with especially useful tables. Billed by the editor as the "latest approved methods of treatment for the practicing physician," this book comes as close as any to filling that claim.

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Primary Care Radiology. By Fred A. Mettler, Jr, Milton J. Guiberteau, Carolyn M. Voss, and Christopher E. Urbina. 269 pp, illustrated. Philadelphia, WB Saunders, 2000. \$45 (paper). ISBN 0-7216-8333-9.

Primary Care Radiology is a soft-cover, inexpensively priced text that aims to serve as a reference for primary care providers to help guide them in ordering imaging studies. The book contains an introduction followed by eight chapters that break down the subject into organ systems and body regions. The introduction contains references to some excellent Internet Web sites. In each of the following chapters, subheadings include presenting symptoms such as acute abdominal pain, specific radiologic findings such as the solitary pulmonary nodule, and diagnoses such as tuberculosis. Each chapter concludes with a list of suggested readings.

High-quality images are liberally spread throughout the book. The images are clear and have easy-to-read labels and legends. The tables are helpful and logical. I especially appreciated the tables included in the appendix, which addresses the cost of various radiologic examinations and the levels of radiation exposure from several different procedures.

I found the text to be primarily oriented toward radiologists rather than primary care providers. Although the premise of the text is excellent, a greater emphasis on the perspective of the primary care provider would be helpful. For example, the book is structured around anatomy, not presenting symptoms or clinical problems. This approach of moving from an imaging procedure to diagnosis is that of the radiologist. In contrast, the primary

care physician proceeds from the presenting clinical problem to diagnosis. Also, the suggested readings were exclusively radiology texts. Lacking were references to basic, essential texts for primary care providers, such as Goodman and Felson's *Felson's Principles of Chest Roentgenology: A Programmed Text* (Philadelphia, W B Saunders, 1999).

Overall, in spite of its shortcomings, *Primary Care Radiology* is probably one of the best radiology textbooks to date for primary care providers. The writing is clear, the images are excellent, and the price is right. In the future, a greater emphasis should be placed upon the day-to-day diagnostic challenges encountered by primary care providers. The current text is best suited for those interested in an in-depth study of imaging; it is not useful as a reference book.

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"Ferri's Clinical Advisor 2000: Instant Diagnosis and Treatment. By Fred F. Ferri. 1312 pp, illustrated. St. Louis, CV Mosby, 2000. \$54.95. ISBN 0-323-00971-9.

Given the scope of family medicine, general reference texts are a most valuable commodity. In addition, it would be beneficial to have general up-to-date information available in a format that provides the user with easy-to-read, concise, and quickly attained information. "Ferri's Clinical Advisor 2000" is such a text.

This hardcover text, 1,312 pages long, is divided into seven separate sections. The first, on diseases and disorders, addresses more than 500 clinical topics generally in one to two pages each, with three columns of concise prose covering basic information, diagnosis, and treatment. Areas discussed include epidemiology, physical findings, etiology, differential diagnosis, workups, and treatments. Some topics include pearls. Occasional black and white pictures, x-rays, and figures highlight the subject matter.

The second section contains almost 300 headings of differential diagnoses based on signs or symptoms a patient might have. The information is provided in table or boxed format. The third section contains more than 130 clinical algorithmic tables for various symptoms or diagnoses. The fourth section covers common laboratory tests ordered in daily practice. Information provided includes normal values, the common abnormal findings of the test, and possible causes. Tables and boxes are used to highlight the prose. These pages are divided into two columns.

The fifth section, on clinical preventive services, provides information on various health-screening assessments and periodic examinations. Recommendations are based upon US Preventive Services Task Force data. Part A reviews periodic health examinations. Part B reviews screening tests regarding individual disease states and disorders. Part C discusses counseling issues for various problems, and Part D, immunizations and chemoprophylaxis.

The sixth section is on clinical facts and formulas. This section contains a wealth of information on various clinical issues, tests, scales, and formulae. The topics are covered under headings of disease prevention, patient evaluation, clinical formulas, growth and development, therapeutic guidelines, and emergency medicine. Subject matter ranges from immunization data to endocarditis prophylaxis recommendations to issues in sports screening to information related to the human immunodeficiency virus.

The seventh section is a table format comparison of medications in various drug classes.

The number of topics is extensive, and information regarding most any common ailment or complaint or symptom can be found somewhere in this text. Informa-

tion is provided in a concise and an easy-to-read format, and cross-references are made throughout the text. A comprehensive table of contents and index are included. A listing of topics by body system appears inside the front and back covers noting the section(s) in which the topic is discussed. There is a companion CD-ROM from which patient education materials can be printed out.

This book could be used by practicing physicians, residents, and medical students alike. It provides a breadth and wealth of clinically useful information for its target audience—the primary care physician in daily practice.

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