Kingdom. The recommendation of treatment of cervical erosions and discharge with chemical cautery or cryotherapy, with no mention in the text of evaluating for carcinoma, history of abnormal Papanicolaou smear, or infection, would not meet standards of care in this country. His inclusion of caudal blocks for low back pain is an addition most family physicians are not trained to use or would not feel comfortable using.

In spite of these concerns about portions of the text, the book accurately reflects its title, *Minor Surgery: A Text and Atlas.* The text is brief and to the point. It is not written at a level to instruct a medical student through a procedure, but it is quite adequate for a practicing physician. Throughout the book there are numerous high-quality color and black-and-white illustrations of procedures, equipment, and procedure room layout. Overall, for the practicing physician whose practice entails numerous procedures, this book serves as a good general reference for needed equipment, procedure, and instrument sources.

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Office Orthopaedics. *By Michael L. Dvorkin. 296 pages, illustrated. Norwalk, Connecticut, Appleton & Lange, 1993. $49.95. ISBN 0-8385-7214-6.*

Although an important component of primary care in any setting, office orthopedics generally receives little attention in traditional medical education whether at the predoctoral or graduate levels. In addition, textbooks on orthopedic surgery tend to deal with more complex problems and with the more surgical aspects of orthopedics with scant attention to common orthopedic problems seen in ambulatory care. This new first edition monograph on office orthopedics fills an important need extremely well. Written by a solo author who is an attending orthopedic surgeon at Franklin Square Hospital Center in Baltimore, this book is sharply focused on the interests and needs of the primary care physician whether in the emergency department or office setting. Its content was drawn from the author's extensive experience in teaching internal medicine and family practice residents. Its goal is to enable primary care physicians to recognize and manage many common problems in office orthopedics.

This book is an absolute jewel. It is clearly written, well organized, concise while at the same time specific and rich in appropriate detail, and well illustrated with graphic drawings and radiographs. Most common problems that the primary care physician will encounter in the overall area of office orthopedics are included in this book. Each clinical entity is approached in a logical fashion, starting with a review of the relevant anatomy, then moving on to diagnosis and differential diagnosis, management, and follow-up. In many instances, useful algorithms are provided to assist in clinical decision making. The book is particularly strong in differential diagnosis, and suggestions are made for consultation and referral in appropriate situations. The book covers orthopedic problems in both children and adults. A consistent emphasis is placed upon a conservative, noninvasive approach to management. References are provided for each of the 14 chapters, and these include both recent and classical references.

In contrast to most other attempts to cover office orthopedics, this book succeeds very well in meeting its goals. All of its contents are relevant to the generalist physician in active practice. It is strongly recommended as part of the working library of practicing generalists and residents in the primary care disciplines. The reader will be amply rewarded by finding abundant clinical nuggets as well as a solid reference for appropriate standards of care in this important area.

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The Right Test: A Physician's Guide to Laboratory Medicine. Second edition. *By Carl E. Speicher. 250 pp., illustrated. Philadelphia, W.B. Saunders, 1993. $23 (paper). ISBN 0-7216-3782-5.*

This edition of *The Right Test* carries on the tradition of being a user-friendly physician's guide to laboratory medicine. The additional emphasis on cost-effective laboratory testing, as well as improvement in several clinical areas (related to human immunodeficiency virus, laboratory testing, screening in primary care, and Lyme disease, among others), is readily apparent, and the author has persisted in maintaining the compact quality of the manual by adding only 80 pages. The book's organization takes on a slight format change that retains the problem-solving orientation of the first edition but enhances the reader's appreciation of clinical practice parameters — an issue of ever-increasing importance to decision making in medicine.

More than 75 clinical areas are addressed — anemia, sexually transmitted disease, acute and chronic diarrhea, abdominal pain, screening for dyslipidemia, cancer of various origins, and fluid analysis, to name several. Typically a pathway is suggested recommending the first series of test considerations with an accompanying synopsis depicting the relative effectiveness of the tests, the alternative diagnostic management of the patient's problem, and an annotation of the recent pertinent literature, including areas of controversy and debate. A good example is the review of prostate cancer screening. The digital rectal examination and the PSA test are both placed by the author into their appropriate highly debated perspective. Some of the book's strengths are exemplified by Speicher's discussion of the Papanicolaou smear recommendation changes and the rational use of screening for dyslipidemia, the latter area on which many other authors fail to expand. This edition also includes substantially more charts and

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information in tabular form when compared with its successful predecessor. Once more the Index proves to be brief yet inclusive of most areas interesting the primary care provider, and quite handy is the complete set of normal laboratory values easily accessed on the inner covers.

The Right Test has proved to be an extremely practical manual for those who deal with common problems in inpatient or outpatient medicine (students, residents, practitioners). The outstanding section reviewing hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E and the Epstein-Barr virus recently provided me admirable assistance in caring for a patient with a perplexing diagnosis.

Finally, this manual not only provides a point of focus for a particular laboratory diagnostic problem, it also is so readable that an individual can rapidly review the entire text as an efficient preparation for an examination.

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