

# Book Reviews

## **Atlas of Outpatient and Office Surgery. Second edition.**

*Edited by Robert B. Benjamin. 404 pp., illustrated. Philadelphia, Lea & Febiger (A Waverly Company), 1994. \$89.50. ISBN 0-8121-1540-6.*

This atlas has many informative aspects and serves the function of an atlas very nicely. Some, but not all, of the content is relevant for family physicians. Of the nearly 70 surgical procedures described, slightly less than one-half might be performed by family physicians who are procedure oriented. It is true that an increasing number of surgical procedures are being done in the outpatient or office setting, and it is eye opening to see the large number of procedures, from simple to complex, that are now considered as appropriate for these settings. I do not believe, however, family physicians will be doing any of the following procedures: upper lid blepharoplasty, correction of upper lid ptosis, lower lip shave, bunion osteotomy, hammer toe correction, excision of Dupuytren's contracture, orchiectomy, or hemodialysis shunt placement. I found 32 procedures I would not feel qualified to do or would not feel comfortable doing given customary medicolegal considerations.

Of more concern to me is that all 24 authors in this atlas are surgical subspecialists. Thus their experiences most likely involve the most severe types of cases in each category, i.e., the complex cases primary care physicians choose to refer. Therefore, the suggested procedure is often more extensive and complex than it needs to be for the types of cases commonly seen by family physicians, e.g., treatment of paronychia or felon. Our patients are most likely to have a comparatively minor involvement that can be handled with less involved surgery.

The atlas is very well organized and is highly readable. The illustrations are absolutely the best I have ever seen. The illustrator, Alan O. Hage, has used a partial cutaway technique, done from video tapes, that shows the surface structures, the internal anatomy, and the surgical procedure in a remarkably clear way.

Family physicians who do many procedures will most likely find this atlas valuable. I certainly recommend that they take an opportunity to review it before making a purchase.

Jack Leversee, MD  
University of Washington  
Seattle

**Essentials of Internal Medicine.** *Edited by William N. Kelley, editor-in-chief. 824 pp., illustrated. Philadelphia, J.B. Lippincott, 1994. \$32.95 (paper). ISBN 0-397-51272-4.*

*Essentials of Internal Medicine* presents an important core of information for ten disciplines of internal medicine. It is designed to be both a "background reference for individual study and review," as well as a

handy reference to give quick access to information needed in the daily care of patients. I found it most successful in meeting the former goal.

Each specialty area, e.g., cardiology, gastroenterology, nephrology, is considered from two points of view. The first half of each subspecialty section describes common diseases, including pathogenesis and clinical features. The second half details an approach to diagnosis and management of common clinical problems with a differential diagnosis including many of the diseases from the first half. Algorithms and tables present an orderly approach to care of common signs and symptoms of illness. The dichotomy of information, partly grouped by disease and partly by chief problem, made this a difficult reference for a quick answer but an excellent orderly approach to the study of internal medicine problems.

The book is not designed to be a comprehensive reference, and I found it lacking in addressing some specific questions I encountered in my office practice. The text appears to have been written by specialty-oriented authors. While some outpatient-oriented problems, such as low back pain and upper respiratory tract infection, are addressed, large areas I would consider to be general internal medicine are described very briefly or not at all — preventive medicine, genetics, nutrition, environmental medicine, and ethics.

Much of the information is presented in tables and diagrams, which improves readability but limits the discussion of various aspects or choices of diagnostic route or therapeutic approach. The book is largely a presentation of each author's preferred approach.

This book should be of greatest use to medical students, both preclinical and those on clinical rotations in particular. Certainly the price is very reasonable for a large volume of clearly presented and accessible information. As a practicing physician I prefer a more complete internal medicine text on my shelf.

Fred Heidrich, MD  
Group Health Cooperative of Puget Sound  
Seattle

**Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology.** *Edited by Joseph S. Sanfilippo and associate editors David Muram, Peter A. Lee, and John Dewhurst. 707 pp., illustrated. Philadelphia, W.B. Saunders, 1994. \$95. ISBN 0-7216-3971-2.*

*Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology* was written for clinicians who require expertise in providing care for this population of patients. The authors succeed in delivering a well-organized informational source that the reader would typically need to assemble from a collection of primary care and specialty reference works in gynecology.

The text, which stresses a recurring theme of normal versus abnormal, is divided into three sections: Growth and Development, Medical Problems, and