

Book Reviews

Atlas of Infectious Diseases. Volume II. Skin, Soft Tissue, Bone and Joint Infections. Edited by Gerald L. Mandell and Dennis L. Stevens. 1434 pp., illustrated. New York, Churchill Livingstone, 1995. \$125. ISBN 1-878132-44X.

Knowledge of infectious disease plays a critical role in the daily practice of the primary care physician. Certainly much of the diagnosis and management of infectious diseases in patients is learned by visual means, and those skills must be constantly refreshed. This atlas of infectious diseases is a comprehensive collection of graphics and illustrations that will greatly assist the learner and the practicing physician in this broad and challenging field of medicine.

The subject matter is grouped in chapters by type of infectious agent or by type of disease. There are chapters on infections caused by fungi, parasites, viruses, and various bacteria, as well as discussions of infections associated with animal bites and contact, osteomyelitis and joint infections, and rheumatic manifestations of infectious diseases. Each chapter includes photographs (predominantly color), illustrations, tables, micrographs, and imaging studies. The photographs are well chosen for their illustrative qualities and reproduced with great clarity.

The only text material is that which accompanies descriptions of each figure or photograph. This text provides important information, such as epidemiology, pathophysiology, disease characteristics, clinical course, and treatment outcomes. Each chapter includes a selected bibliography, as well as references for pictorial representations. The Index is also well constructed and supportive.

Medical students and residents would benefit greatly from this atlas as an instructional adjunct to any standard text in infectious disease or internal medicine. Given the high caliber of this work, it would be worthwhile to investigate other volumes in the series. The practicing physician will appreciate this work as a relatively quick, visually captivating way to revisit subject material pertinent to infections of the musculoskeletal system.

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Ultrasound in Emergency Medicine. By Michael Heller and Dietrich Jehle. 350 pp., illustrated. Philadelphia, W.B. Saunders, 1995. \$50. ISBN 0-7216-4506-2.

There are a number of good textbooks on clinical ultrasonography. Drs. Heller and Jehle have broken new ground, however, in writing a book directed toward the use of ultrasonography in emergency medicine. Since 1989 the emergency medicine literature has promoted the use of sonography by emergency physicians. This textbook is the first, however, devoted to the subject. As technology has improved, portable and affordable ultrasound machines appropriate for

bedside diagnoses have become available. Now there is a definite need to develop training programs for those physicians who are on the front line of patient care at all hours of the day and week when formal sonographic studies are not available. One should mention that, beside emergency department physicians, there are many rural physicians who are also on the front line and who are even further away from radiology departments and specialty consultation. Problem-focused ultrasonography is a superb tool for answering questions about the need for quick intervention emergency transportation. With telemedicine around the corner, this already digitalized modality will assume even greater importance.

The authors have organized this book in a manner consistent with their conceptualization of the role of emergency department sonography. The emergency examination is focused and problem oriented. There is no pretense that it is a formal, comprehensive, all-inclusive diagnostic study. There are specific, important questions for which the emergency physician needs immediate or quick answers. Fortunately, two of the most time-critical conditions, pericardial tamponade and rupturing aortic aneurysm, lend themselves well to straightforward sonographic examination.

The first chapter does a good job of presenting the fundamentals of ultrasound technology without becoming unnecessarily technical. The second chapter is devoted to what the authors call primary applications. These are specific, bedside studies that have the greatest potential for doing the greatest good: examinations for gallbladder disease, obstructive uropathy, abdominal aneurysms, pregnancy questions (many of which can be answered by showing a live intrauterine pregnancy), cardiac tamponade, and electromechanical dissociation. The last chapter is devoted to secondary uses of sonography in the emergency department. These uses are secondary in the sense of being less serious and less urgent or because sonography plays a limited role in the diagnosis. The illustrations throughout the book are excellent. It would have been helpful to include the figure-transducer position icons available on many sonographic machines.

Appendix 1 offers a brief overview of criteria for choosing sonographic equipment. Appendix 2 reproduces the Model Curriculum for Physician Training in Emergency Ultrasonography from the *Annals of Emergency Medicine*. Omitted from the discussion of physician training is acknowledgment of the problem of interspecialty conflict and the difficulty in establishing training programs for nonradiologists because of institutional politics.

This book is highly recommended for all physicians who want to learn the basics of bedside ultrasonography.

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