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This pictorial quiz book is a welcome addition to the local emergency medicine publications. The Hong Kong Society for Emergency Medicine and Surgery has published a series of training manuals for trainees over the last decade. These training manuals were didactic in nature. In 2004, an Emergency Medicine Casebook (Hong Kong University Press) filled a vacuum in learning through case studies.

A picture is better than a thousand words. Quiz-based learning is a good way to consolidate knowledge. The present book thus also fills a gap in the learning aids on offer to local trainees. The authors have presented a sensible collection of 70 cases, of the type likely to be encountered in local emergency departments. A wide spectrum of conditions is included. Many are common presentations, and for those that are less common, they are important conditions not to be missed. The quality of the clinical photographs is good in general. Some of the plain X-ray and ultrasound images could be improved to facilitate better appreciation of more subtle features. The questions are stimulating and relevant to the local practice of emergency medicine.

Since this is a pictorial quiz book, there is an obvious bias towards cases with good diagnostic images and clinical photographs. Laboratory data interpretation for example is less often presented. This is a small book and could not be expected to cover the entire practice of emergency medicine.

Trainees in emergency medicine will find it helpful in preparing for the OSCE examination. Although not primarily intended for students, it could also be a stimulating challenge to medical students going through their rotation in emergency medicine. The size of the book is particularly suited to the pocket of the white coat. Doctors in other specialties who are required to take care of emergencies may also find it useful.

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