

Fundamentals of maxillofacial surgery

Ed: Ferraro JW

Springer-Verlag Hong Kong Ltd., 701 Mirror Tower, 61 Mody Road, Tsimshatsui, Hong Kong
HK\$1047, pp 337, ISBN 0 387 94737 X

Fundamentals of Maxillofacial Surgery is a hard-cover text of 337 pages and 316 black-and-white illustrations. Including the editor, there are 14 contributors who have collaborated in writing a total of 23 chapters. The book is obviously written for the medical graduate who has not had any dental training, who is working in a plastic surgery or ear, nose, and throat (ENT) department, and who may wish or need to deal with problems related to the face and jaws.

Chapter 1 covers the embryology and growth of the craniofacial region, while chapters 2 and 3 deal with the gross anatomies of the head and neck, respectively. The content is basic and the style of writing is clear and concise. There are also sections on abnormalities of growth and development. Chapters 4 and 5 cover dental development, dental anatomy, and the basic concepts of dental occlusion and malocclusion. Chapter 6 details methods of application of local anaesthesia to the face and jaws. Standard techniques of achieving nerve blocks for various branches of the trigeminal nerve are outlined and illustrated. Chapters 7 to 11 cover traumatology—overall, the content is basic and targets the unfamiliar. The depth of coverage is therefore not comprehensive, and the usefulness of the material does not extend to helping with any practical procedures in facial trauma surgery.

Chapters 12 to 18 cover the surgical correction of dentofacial deformities. Topics include clinical assessment, cephalometric analysis, and prediction of the results from treatment. The seven chapters outline standard operative procedures that are used to correct typical deformities of the maxilla, mandible, and chin.

Chapter 15 specifically focuses on genioplasty; however, the author includes procedures that are no longer acceptable for chin correction, such as external skin incisions and alloplastic implants. Chapters 19 and 20 specifically deal with maxillary advancement surgery in cases of unilateral and bilateral repaired clefts. Chapter 21 is about the temporomandibular joint and, although it includes information on traumatic injuries, ankylosis, and internal derangement, the chapter is rather sketchy in its coverage of these topics. Chapters 22 and 23 detail various practical information on dental laboratory methods. The information is in a 'how to do' format, but it is doubtful whether it would be of any practical use to anyone.

Overall, the book is well illustrated and simply and well written. Most illustrations are line drawings of an adequate size which contain useful detail. The quoted selling price of HK\$1047 is reasonable for this category of book. *Fundamentals of Maxillofacial Surgery* will be useful for trainees in plastic surgery and ENT surgery who have no dental background. It will also be a useful addition to their departmental libraries, and it may serve as a useful reference for medical and dental undergraduates. It is doubtful, however, whether it represents value for money for any surgical trainees with a dental background.

Dr N Samman
Senior Lecturer
Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
Prince Philip Dental Hospital
34 Hospital Road
Hong Kong

Clinics in diagnostic imaging

Ed: Peh WCG

Miller Freeman Pte Ltd., 100 Beach Road, #26-00 Shaw Towers, Singapore 189702, Singapore
HK\$150, pp 276, ISBN 981 04 0133 7

Clinics in Diagnostic Imaging features a collection of 30 selected case studies from previously published articles from the 'Clinics in diagnostic imaging' series

of the *Singapore Medical Journal* between December 1994 and December 1997. There are 36 contributors, including radiologists and clinicians, from 18 institutes

in eight countries. The layout of this A5-sized book is clear and precise. The contents are divided into six sections—head and neck imaging, musculoskeletal and spinal imaging, thoracic imaging, abdominal imaging, paediatric imaging, and women's imaging. The main content is preceded by a short list of abbreviations. A summary list of diagnoses of all cases is found at the end of the book and is followed by an index.

The content has been chosen carefully and balances commonly encountered clinical situations with specific findings of some interesting cases. Each case report includes appropriate clinical background, laboratory data, and the initial radiological images for interpretation in the form of a radiological quiz. The answer is presented on the following page together with image interpretation, diagnosis, clinical course, and discussion with a short list of references. The editor has performed a good job in maintaining a consistent style throughout the book and designating the appropriate length and detail of each case.

The book is intended for reading by family physicians, hospital-based doctors, trainees in various medical specialties (including diagnostic radiology), and senior clinical clerks. I found the book very readable. It is not difficult to assimilate the rich educational material contained in the illustrative cases, even with light reading. A clinical and problem-oriented approach has been the consistent theme. The imaging materials and approaches are up-to-date and the discussions are succinct and informative. Overall, a correct perspective has been given to the application of various imaging modalities, such as the role of nuclear medicine and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). I like, in particular,

the more detailed description on the role and limitations of MRI in various clinical settings. This information will considerably help those who are not too familiar with this newer imaging modality in the correct choice of imaging investigations.

The book is richly illustrated with 234 black-and-white photographs. It would be more vibrant if the operative photographs and pathology images were in colour, bearing in mind the implication of a higher production cost. There is quite a wide variation in the size of each photograph and this could also be improved in future editions. Quite significant artefacts are observed in Figures 5.1A, 5.1B, and 5.1C. Nevertheless, these minor defects in presentation do not overshadow the consistent high quality of the illustrations.

Clinics in Diagnostic Imaging is a gem, and I do not hesitate to recommend this book to medical students, interns, clinicians, radiographers, and trainee radiologists. It is very affordable and serves as a useful reference that would certainly provide the reader with reading enjoyment while assimilating clinically useful knowledge during the process. Radiology is a rapidly evolving field and the publication of a book that provides contemporary imaging guidance in many clinical situations can only be of benefit.

Dr KH Fung
Consultant Radiologist
Department of Diagnostic Radiology
Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital
3 Lok Man Road
Chai Wan
Hong Kong

The ICU book, second edition

By: Marino PL

Williams & Wilkins Asia Pacific Ltd., Room 808, Metroplaza Tower 2, 223 Hing Fong Road, Kwai Fong, Hong Kong
HK\$347.50, pp 969, ISBN 0 683 05565 8

This soft-cover book consists of 928 pages of text that are divided into 14 sections, 54 chapters, and four useful appendices. The preface states that it is the intention of the author to provide a generic book for intensive care units (ICUs), with an emphasis on fundamental principles. The book achieves its objectives admirably. The author is clearly a hands-on practitioner as well as a teacher, and this is reflected in the style and problem-oriented manner in which most of the important topics are approached. The strength

of the book is in the author's excellent explanations of fundamental physiology and pathophysiology, as they relate to intensive care problems and decision making. As an introduction to fundamental intensive care principles for 'first timers' in the ICU such as critical care nurses, rotating specialists in training, and new intensive care specialist trainees, this book is ideal.

Key principles of management are addressed. Chapter 1, 'Early management of acute myocardial

infarction' is an example of how an often complex and confusing subject can be reduced to a clear and simple synopsis of current evidence and practice. The chapter concentrates on the aspects of therapy that involve general intensive care and only briefly mentions therapeutic options when doctors of other specialties would take over primary patient care (eg cardiologists performing angioplasty). By only highlighting the role of general intensive care, the book is kept to a reasonable length. It also provides numerous easy-to-follow rules and algorithms for the newcomer to intensive care, which allow seemingly complex problems to be more easily resolved—the section on acid-based disorders is a good example.

The advantage of this being a single-author book is that the style is consistently good and explanations are clear and concise. The tables are informative and concise, and diagrams are attractive and useful. The book reads easily and desired information, if covered, is quick to find. An example of the author's obvious teaching talent is the excellent chest radiograph reproduction of a feeding tube in the right main bronchus, which dramatically illustrates a teaching point that should never be forgotten once this radiograph has been seen. The absence of a chapter number at the top of each page is a little irritating, as most cross-referencing in the text is done by chapter. The book is far from comprehensive—chapters on trauma, burns, obstetrics, poisoning (other than selected pharmacological poisonings), and airway obstruction/management are missing. This book will always, therefore, need to be

supplemented by other, more comprehensive texts. There is some disparity with respect to detail and content in certain chapters and this would also have to be overcome with supplemental reading.

Intensive care is rapidly changing, particularly with regard to evidence-based practice, and it is becoming impossible for any individual to be fully up to date in every field. It is not surprising therefore that there are some shortcomings in the discussion and suggested implementation of certain evidence-based practices. I do not, however, see the shortcomings as a major drawback, as discussing evidence-based medicine is not the primary objective of this book.

The ICU Book achieves what it sets out to do—encouraging the understanding of the fundamental pathophysiology of critical illness and the key principles of management of common intensive care problems. It is a valuable introductory text to intensive care and deserves a place in any departmental library. I will certainly refer to it for tips when asked to explain difficult concepts to both junior and senior resident staff in our ICU.

Dr GM Joynt
Associate Professor
Department of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Prince of Wales Hospital
Shatin
Hong Kong