

Book Reviews

COLOR ATLAS OF ENT DIAGNOSIS **4th edn**

Tony R. Bull
Thieme, Stuttgart,
ISBN 1 58890 110 6 €34.95

This revised and expanded edition follows the same format of previous editions, with chapters on ENT examination, the Ear, Nose, Pharynx and Larynx/Head and Neck. The new cover and paper quality reflect the change in the publisher. This is now a 'Thieme Flexibook'.

The quality of illustrations, some now very familiar, remains very high, with one exception. That depicting the normal eardrum is below par. There are newer topics that cover the eight years since the last edition. Stroboscopy and the renewed interest in vein graft in stapes surgery are just two examples. Atlases help in pattern recognition and this book fulfils the criteria perfectly. For example, the picture of a patient with Paget's disease is one that, once seen, is unlikely to be forgotten. There is a great deal of information in this book. The text accompanying the illustrations is of the highest standard and reflects the author's mastery of his subject and the English language.

This atlas is suitable for medical students and trainee ENT surgeons, doctors in General Practice and those working in Accident and Emergency departments. I would recommend it without hesitation.

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CHORDOMAS AND CONDRIO **SARCOMAS OF THE SKULL BASE** **AND SPINE**

Griff Harsh ed.
Thieme Publishers
ISBN 3 13 124771 1 €189, CHF 286,
pp 430
427 illust.

This publisher has built up a reputation of producing beautifully presented, well written and well illustrated medical texts. This book is no exception, however the subject matter is a little esoteric for the vast majority of otolaryngologists.

As the title would suggest this book deals solely with chordomas and chondrosarcomas of the skull base and spine. There are very few otolaryngologists who are involved in this work. Those of us who do anterior skull base surgery and pituitary surgery come across these lesions on an occasional basis only. They comprise only one per cent of intracranial skull base tumours.

There are clear introductory chapters on the embryology of the skull base and the demographics and pathology of these lesions. The majority of the book is devoted to the surgical approaches to the skull base and the spine. It is the first two thirds of the book dealing with the skull base that is of relative interest to the otolaryngologist.

This is a multi-authored text and different authors have produced chapters on the different surgical approaches to the anterior skull base. The whole gamut of surgical approaches are discussed (transcranial, transfacial, transtemporal, transphenoid, lateral rhinotomy, facial translocation, transtemporal, lateral and antero-lateral approaches).

The surgical descriptions are well written and do make interesting reading in themselves but for those who are interested in these surgical approaches there are other texts around that deal with surgery of the anterior skull base in a more generic and more useful way. I am sure this text would be a valued addition to a neurosurgeon's reference library. My only minor quibble is that there is no mention made of endoscopic approaches to the anterior skull base.

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