

Book Reviews

MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY OF THE HEAD, NECK AND CRANIAL BASE

Phillip A. Wackym, Dale H. Rice, Steven D. Schaefer (eds). Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2002. ISBN 0 7817 2045 1, Price US\$ 225

Minimally Invasive Surgery of the Head, Neck and Cranial Base is a beautifully produced 559 page book. In five sections this book covers: I. General Principles; II. Otolaryngology, Neuro-otology, and Cranial Base surgery; III. Paranasal Sinus Surgery; IV. Head and Neck Surgery/Plastic and Reconstructive surgery; and V. Laryngology and Bronchoesophagology. The list of contributing authors is extremely impressive from both sides of the Atlantic. The illustrations are generally of an extremely high quality, with some quite magnificent endoscopic views of the cranial base. Topics covered range from everyday procedures that will be carried out in most departments, through supra-specialized and developing techniques, to the purely experimental. I found the chapters relating to optics and digital image processing particularly informative.

My main concern with this book was that it tried to cover too broad a subject. So for example whilst the chapters relating to endoscopic sinus surgery were well written, I feel anyone wanting to read about this area would probably access a specialist text on FESS. The same applies to a number of other topics covered. Consequently, I think anyone who picked up this book would find several chapters that would be of interest, however I think it unlikely that all the chapters would appeal to one individual.

Despite these reservations, I thoroughly enjoyed reading many parts of this book, and I feel it would be an interesting addition to a departmental library for reference purposes.

ANDREW P. COATESWORTH
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SURGICAL ATLAS OF PEDIATRIC OTOLARYNGOLOGY

Charles D. Bluestone, Richard M. Rosenfeld (eds). B. C. Decker Inc., 2002. ISBN 1 5500 9149 2, Price £145

This is virtually an exclusively American authored text in which all of the authors are from the United States, apart from a couple of Canadian guest authors and one author from Puerto Rico.

The aim of the text is to give clear concise information on operative surgery in children and to a large extent it is successful in doing this. There are 36

chapters covering the broad fields of Otolaryngology, Oral and Pharyngeal Surgery, Head and Neck Surgery, Endoscopy and Airway Surgery, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Patient Education and Anaesthesia. I realize that it is probably impossible to create a comprehensive text of this nature as there will always be some procedure favoured by some surgeon somewhere that is not mentioned. Nevertheless I was surprised to find that there was no information concerning osteo-integrated implants, such as the bone-anchored hearing aid or the Branemark system for a pinna replacement. The actual surgical procedures are laid out in a step-by-step approach, well illustrated by black and white line drawings and the occasional black and white photograph. The illustrations are clear and easy to understand as well as being anatomically accurate.

There are points which are infuriating due to their vagueness, for example, failing to mention what type of suture material is recommended, which antibiotic dressing is recommended, or the specific names of certain instruments. In some chapters the authors are to be commended for giving a comprehensive list, including manufacturer, of instruments that should be available for the procedure being described, but sadly this is not found consistently throughout the text.

In this modern world of evidence based medicine it is surprising how little information is given on the success rates of the various procedures described in the book. This lack of information of success rates is compounded by an equal lack of information on how common certain complications are and what are the potential pitfalls for the novice or unwary surgeon. Issues of risk management are barely discussed in any chapter.

However in considering the text overall, I have to say that it has considerable merit in giving good clear information and how a wide range of paediatric otolaryngology procedures are performed. I would certainly recommend any department that undertakes surgery on children that investment in this book as a bench book for the operating theatre would be money well spent. It also comes with a CD Rom which could be an excellent alternative method of having the information available in the operating environment.

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HEAD AND NECK SURGERY 3rd edn.

Jatin Shah, 2003. Mosby.
ISBN 0 7234 3223 6 Price £250.

Let's face it, how often do you actually buy a book on the basis of someone's subjective opinion? Is what I write here going to persuade you to part with £250.00

for the latest (3rd) edition of Jatin Shah's Head and Neck book?

Put it this way if you have any interest in matters of the head and neck and you don't have this book, then you are missing a most beautifully prepared and presented textbook and you're depriving yourself of the opportunity to share in the experience of one of the world's best known head and neck surgeons.

This hard-bound book of 732 pages combines the complexities of head and neck surgery and oncology with the simplicity of one of those medical students ENT books that is crammed full of colour pictures to gaze at. It is divided into 20 chapters covering all regions within the head and neck. The chapter on reconstructive surgery describes in detail the variety of techniques used in the head and neck. Indeed I would argue that once you've read the section on the pectoralis major flap you should be able to do one!

The text throughout the book is closely aligned to the figures and diagrams which are all of an exceptional quality. Colour plates are supplemented by regular boxes and graphs. Renowned for his work on patterns of lymph node metastases Shah's chapter on cervical lymph nodes is a joy to read. This edition includes chapters on radiation therapy, chemotherapy and aspects of quality of life. A small final chapter on the genetics of head and neck cancer allows those who shake at the mention of p53 to rest more easily. The text is not referenced and as such clearly represents the current multidisciplinary approach adopted in the author's own unit. Not everyone therefore will agree with everything. There is a recommended reading section at the end which largely makes up for the lack of references.

I suppose if you're a paediatric otologist you may not be interested in this book, however for the rest of you out there, what are you waiting for?

KIM W. AH-SEE
Consultant Otolaryngologists

THE AGING FACE: A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH

Calvin M. Johnson, Jr., Ramsey Alsarraf
WB Saunders ISBN 0 7216 96171

It is always a slightly schizophrenic exercise reviewing a book co-written by a real pioneer in his or her field as half of me is interested in what they have to say and how it is presented whereas the other half wants to be able to do a hatchet job, proclaiming that the legend is a phoney and that the crown has slipped. The latter half was disappointed! Not only is Calvin Johnson Jr., a legend within facial plastic surgery circles but he has also produced a well crafted, readable text along with Ramsey Alsarraf that, if anything, elevates him even further.

It is not a book that caters wholeheartedly for the beginner in that it does not provide a tabulated series of points and tables to help with all facial plastic procedures. Rather it develops a few selected procedures such as blepharoplasty, brow lift and face-lift in their entirety, taking time to explain little tips and subtle nuances that have been garnered over 25 years of experience. This is further augmented by an extremely useful collection of case studies at the end of the book plus two exceptionally well produced CD-ROM's demonstrating the various procedures with video footage. All of the pictures are of decent quality and in colour but my only criticism is that some of the before and after shots don't compare like with like for example, sullen, with no make-up beforehand but smiling and glowing afterwards (the oldest trick in the book!)

Nevertheless, this is a minor point and I can recommend this text as a must have for practitioners wishing to develop a career in facial plastics as it delivers a master-class on a few chosen procedures with meticulous clarity and aplomb.

SIMON WATTS