

Book Reviews

HEAD AND NECK SURGERY – OTOLARYNGOLOGY, 3rd Edn.

Byron J. Bailey.

Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, USA, 2001.

ISBN 0-7817-2908-9. 2704 pages.

Price \$339.00

In the current climate of specialization and sub-specialization it is always a salient lesson to remind oneself of just how broad and varied a subject Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery is. Open the latest (third) edition of this now well established text book from Byron Bailey and his army of contributors and one is made only too aware of the extent of our speciality.

This two volume text is, like the two previous editions, produced to an extremely high standard with a total of over 3500 glossy pages interspersed with some excellent line drawings and several colour plates. Split into two sections, volume 1 deals with Basic science/ General medicine and Paediatric Otolaryngology while the five sections in volume 2 cover New Frontiers; Head and Neck; Otology; Facial plastics and reconstruction and a Miscellaneous section at the end. This final section includes the source of many a Christmas quiz, namely the Eponyms in Otolaryngology chapter. However the chapter entitled medical ethics might as well be called Medico-legal aspects of Otolaryngology. It highlights a number of case histories with some ethical issues but a lot of medico-legal points relating to litigation and suing for compensation. A small chapter of only five pages, likely to expand in future editions?

As for the main body of the text it is hard to find fault in such a comprehensive general Otolaryngology text-

book. Of course it cannot cover all aspects of the increasing number of sub-specialities that now abound but it does a pretty good job of covering most things. Some of the colour plates are however somewhat disappointing in their quality with a high 'redness' factor sometimes making it difficult to identify the lesion of interest. One or two of the figures in the basic science section are positively amateurish in their quality and look like screen shots off someone's computer!

The tables throughout catch the eye with their light grey background and make for easy 'skimming' through chapters, this is particularly so for the 'Highlights' table at the end of each chapter followed by an up-to-date bibliography.

The section on facial plastics covers over 400 pages and provides an excellent basis for SpRs with an interest in this area and pre-intercollegiate examination.

Advances in technology mean that a chapter on 'New Frontiers' is inevitable. This chapter coers imaging advances including image guidance, surgical simulation and virtual endoscopy. This section also includes a brief description of different types of Alternative Medicine (perhaps for those 'heart-sink' or 'I-have-nothing-left-to-offer' patients!). An excellent chapter on Understanding Data by Richard Rosenfeld is an absolute must for the statistically-challenged amongst us.

Our departmental library hosts the first edition of this textbook. Would I purchase the latest edition and should you? What are you waiting for, of course you should, your registrars will love you!

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**ATLAS OF HEAD AND NECK
SURGERY – OTOLARYNGOLOGY,
2nd Edn.**

Bryon J. Bailey, Karen H. Kalhoun
Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, 2001.
ISBN 0-7817-2907-6. pp.1056, Price \$259.00

This is a big book in more than one sense of the word. There are over 1000 pages in which 230 contributing authors describe almost 400 separate surgical procedures. There are sections on Head and Neck, Otolaryngology, Plastic and Reconstructive surgery (including a good subsection on Grafts and Free flaps), Endoscopy, Paediatric and General Otolaryngology, Rhinology and, finally a Miscellaneous section which outlines the various techniques for biopsy along with Common Injection sites for Local Anaesthesia, which is good value.

Each operation is described within two pages usually, sometimes four, and rarely six, for more complex procedures, and the layout for each is identical. There are sections which cover the indications, contraindications, special considerations, pre-operative preparation, special instruments, position and anaesthesia, 'tips and pearls', pitfalls and complications (useful reminders when it comes to issues of informed consent), post-operative care issues and a useful bibliography.

There is a very clear and concise description of the operative procedure itself by one or sometimes more of the authors. There is a pleasing uniformity of style of presentation which makes for easy reading so congratulations must be offered to the editors for bringing things together in this way. For each operation there is an accompanying series of truly excellent and informative line drawings (no operative photographs, fortunately) prepared by Anthony Pazos and Christine Gralapp.

There will always be minor differences between surgical practice on either side of the Atlantic but this should not detract from a book which, I think, succeeds in demonstrating a comprehensive overview of the surgical procedures carried out by ourselves and our close colleagues.

There is something of great value here for trainees and consultants of all levels of experience. This book is intended to accompany the two-volume text *Head and Neck Surgery – Otolaryngology* by the same Editors but can also exist independently. If your library or department does not have a copy of this Atlas I think you should do something about it.

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