

**HEAD AND NECK TRAUMA: AN  
INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH**

A Ernst, M Herzog, R Seidl  
Georg Thieme Verlag, 2006  
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Before receipt of this book, I had almost decided to send it off to one of my maxillofacial surgeon reviewers. I had expected a work of limited relevance to the general otolaryngologist or to our trainees. We do, after all, have highly valued colleagues, surely the most 'multi-qualified' surgeons in the UK, who tackle the facial injuries so typical of a UK weekend. This book proves far more ambitious, presenting a wonderful synopsis of management of injuries anywhere in ENT territory.

Of course, there is the coverage of midface, mandibular and dental injuries, which, throughout, is lavishly illustrated with colour diagrams and clinical photos, plus X-rays and scans. The emphasis is on the basics and practicalities of diagnosis and treatment, set at a level ideally suited to our higher surgical trainees and, again, in a subject that UK training tends to ignore. The annotated style of text and use of bullet points, with highlighted tips, makes for easy reading or scanning.

The book opens with a generic overview of immediate and emergency management of head and neck trauma. Initial evaluation and flow charts to aid assessment lead on to a nice discussion of the pathologic principles underlying injuries to, and repair of, tissues such as skin, muscle or nerve. Two chapters then cover intracranial, cervical and skull base injuries. The breadth of this book is shown by chapters on topics as varied as cochleovestibular and facial nerve injuries, and damage to the orbit and aerodigestive tract.

The second half of the book then covers treatment, whether with miniplates to the facial skeleton, an incus transposition in the middle ear or a tracheostomy for a cricoid fracture.

How refreshing, then, to see such a useful, enjoyable text book picking up on a topic which the UK curriculum, and therefore the final exam, has

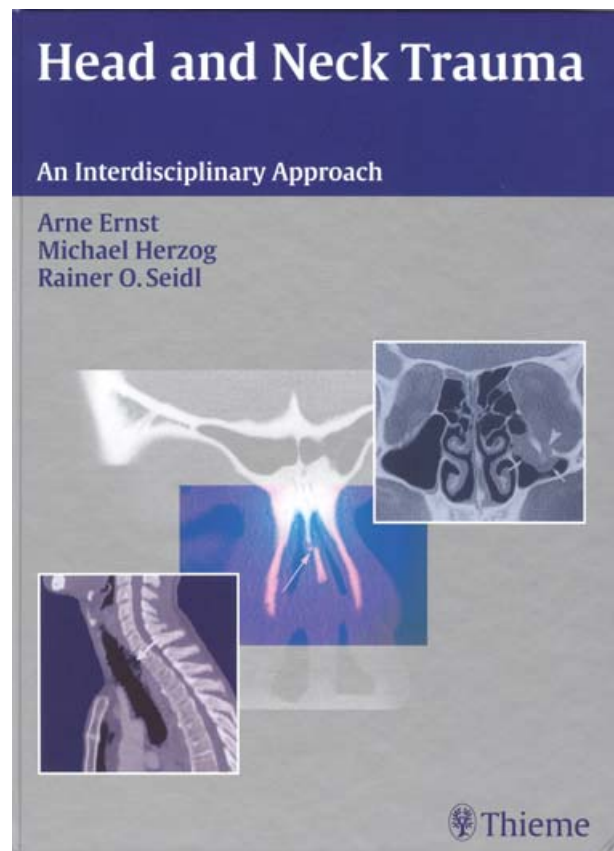


FIG. 1

tended to overlook. I learnt a lot from this and suddenly feel a great authority on the subject. Useful, as the next exams in Dundee will be well over when this review is in print and I was looking for inspiration in question-setting!

Georg Thieme Verlag is a publisher that rarely disappoints, and this book will be a great addition to the libraries of many specialities beyond ours. Flick through it if you see a copy on display – your first impressions will not be disappointed later on.

LIAM FLOOD  
Middlesbrough, UK