

Book Reviews

COMPREHENSIVE FACIAL REJUVENATION: A Practical and Systematic Guide to Surgical Management of the Ageing Face

Edwin F. Williams III, Samuel M. Lam
Publ Lippincott Williams and Wilkins, 2003
ISBN 0781750938. Price £130

Thankfully, in this new age of progressive thinking within otolaryngology, reviewing a text on facial rejuvenation without any mention of function or reconstruction hardly raises an eyebrow any more (forgive the pun!). This latest offering from the facial plastics stable, predictably, emanates from the US and it really is a product from the very top drawer.

I have not heard of either author before but Wayne F. Larrabee in the foreword certainly sings their praises and that is good enough for me.

As always, any book should be judged on content and the way in which it is presented. I am happy to report that it succeeds handsomely on both fronts. The text, although verbose at times, covers the various subjects of lower, mid and upper face rejuvenation with aplomb while the photographs and drawings are of excellent quality. Similarly, hair restoration, cutaneous resurfacing and adjunctive procedures for ablation of rhytids are kept informative and are beautifully illustrated. There is a fairly lengthy section on patient preparation which is important but does seem to drag a little while the section on setting up a practice with all the little financial tit-bits is typically American but somehow refreshingly honest.

The real gem of this book is, however, hidden right at the back in the form of two high quality DVD's detailing all of the procedures in the text. They are didactic but pare each subject down to the essentials in a series of well-edited clips. This is now a new concept and many people, with a childhood devoid of computers and television, will have fond memories of some of their favourite story books accompanied by an audio tape supplying the narrative to the story. My how the wheel turns!

This book and, more importantly, the subject that it covers, forms an important part of our education within ENT as it is an art that is not even talked about much less taught with a degree of authority. It should form an integral part of any facial plastic surgery curriculum and this book would certainly go a long way towards helping to achieve this goal.

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ATLAS OF HEAD AND NECK IMAGING: THE EXTRACRANIAL HEAD AND NECK

S. K. Mukherjee, V. Chong
Thieme Medical Publishers, 2003
ISBN: 3-13-136071-2 Price €159.00

Radiology textbooks never fail to entertain. Maybe it is just the childhood preference for books with pictures, but lavish illustrations, well reproduced by a quality publisher and supported by authoritative text, still catch my eye. Yet, you need to read the subtitle again before parting with the credit card. On first opening the book, I checked the index for 'cholesteatoma' as a personal interest, but only found a single reference. Four scans were said to illustrate 'nasopharyngeal inflammation from middle-ear infection', a remarkable example of the cart and the horse changing places. With the first twinges of anxiety, recourse to the preface revealed all. Read the subtitle again; this book excludes radiology of the temporal bone, the paranasal sinuses or orbits, but concentrates on what we generally group as 'head and neck'.

So let's try again, I thought. Saturated with descriptions of the radiology of inverting papilloma, after a whole day of vivas on the subject, this otologist felt somewhat of an authority. Disquiet returned after looking at some scans of a nasopharyngeal swelling, totally atypical of any Middlesbrough inverting papilloma. No reactive sclerosis of bone, no calcification in the tumour, no sinus involution, indeed nothing nasal here. It was sheer bad luck that, at random, the next page opened proved to be a much more extensive coverage of the imaging of tonsilloliths! All radiology authors succumb to the temptation to print nice pictures from their collection, even if clinically irrelevant.

This is unfair, as after two bad starts, this book then proved hard to fault. A reviewer should first establish what the authors are trying to achieve. These are two radiologists who concentrate on the supra- and infrahyoid neck and, in general, do that extremely well. In the introduction, they stress the complexity of the fascial spaces of the neck and almost concede that it defies understanding. Undeterred, they then take one through every conceivable pathology of the spaces entitled masticator, parotid, visceral, retropharyngeal, prevertebral etc, you'll get the picture. The result is a very comprehensive review of imaging relevant to the Head and Neck Oncologist, the Paediatric Airway Surgeon, the Emergency Neck Surgeon.

The scope of this book is, therefore, limited, but it pursues the topic to an authoritative depth and is highly recommended. You do not get many duds in this trademark navy blue and silver cover.

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**ESSENTIALS OF
OTOLARYNGOLOGY
5th Edn.**

Frank E. Lucente, Gady Har-El
Publ: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2003
ISBN: 0-7817-4707-4 Price £25.95

This fifth edition pocket manual gives an introduction to otolaryngology and is designed for the primary care practitioner as well as medical students and junior ENT trainees.

It begins with anatomy and physiology moving on to history-taking and examination. Subsequent chapters are symptom-orientated, taking the reader through presenting conditions of ear, nose and head and neck. Also included are a selection of special topics such as paediatric otolaryngology and an introduction to clinical research.

The symptom-based format gives this book a good chapter structure and makes it a reasonable diagnostic aid in the clinical setting. The clinical examination section is very easy to understand through the use of large clear photographs which clearly demonstrate clinical technique. The rest of the book however is packed with great deal of small font continuous text rather than bullet points giving the pages a very overcrowded appearance, which is off-putting to the reader. All the photographs in the book are black and white, and although those pictures demonstrating the physical examination are very clear, those showing pathology are not. This is especially noticeable in the 'Ear pain and itching' chapter where findings on otoscopic photographs are extremely difficult to appreciate.

Overall for a pocket manual describing the 'Essentials of Otolaryngology' I think this book tries to do too much, and the way in which the majority of the pages are laid out does not seem to lend itself to easy reading.

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