

**OTOLARYNGOLOGY HEAD AND NECK
SURGERY CLINICAL REFERENCE GUIDE,
2ND EDN**

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Junior trainees in otolaryngology often ask colleagues if there is a good, concise general text to which they can refer. Otolaryngologists have never had a mandatory pocket text to carry around the

wards – unlike their medical colleagues, whose copies of the *Oxford Handbook of Clinical Medicine* (affectionately known as ‘cheese and onion’ due to the similarity of the yellow, green and red cover to potato crisp packets of the same variety) have been used to solve many a difficult clinical dilemma, and allow quick revision to spare embarrassment on their lengthy ward rounds!

This second edition from Pasha provides a good overview of all aspects of otolaryngology and head and neck surgery and is structured in a format redolent of the ‘surgical sieve’ approach favoured by medical students. Conditions are dealt with in a systematic way under the categories of pathophysiology, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment, with expansion where appropriate to include radiology and other relevant disciplines.

The main topics of otolaryngology and head and neck surgery are covered as expected, and interesting sections are included covering plastic and reconstructive surgery and head and neck trauma, typical of a North American text. Not all of the content is pertinent to the otolaryngology trainee, with surgery for alopecia unlikely to feature in the NHS practice of many otolaryngologists in this country. Interestingly, paediatric otolaryngology is not dealt with separately in this publication.

The book is monochromatic and does suffer from a paucity of illustrations, which is disappointing as those present are of good quality. Nonetheless, there are a number of useful tables throughout the book which complement its structured approach to the topics addressed. Indeed, two of the most useful sections are the succinct appendices dealing with the cranial nerves and the branchial apparatus.

Whilst it is possible to read this book as an introductory text, its title appositely states its primary role as a clinical reference guide. Nevertheless, it is a useful book for medical students, foundation trainees and higher surgical trainees; the latter will wish to refer to a larger text for more detail. Furthermore, it is a reference which will slip easily into the white coat pocket of those amongst us who do not have ready access to the internet in our clinical practice, and whose Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) serves only as an expensive address book.

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