

Book Reviews

STROBOSCOPY

Gerhard Boehme and Manfred Gross

Chichester: Whurr, 2004

ISBN: 1 86156 384 1 170 pages £65.00

This book aims to provide a useful tool for clinicians developing and refreshing their skills in stroboscopy.

The initial chapters, covering functional anatomy and physiology, provide a thorough refresher of voice production, and of the biomechanical and biophysical factors that influence this. The principles of stroboscopy and evaluation criteria are clearly detailed, with comprehensive sections covering assessment procedures and qualitative analysis. There are clear colour photographs of vocal cord conditions and those who have read a well-known book describing videostroboscopic examination of the larynx will recognise the line drawings. However, the small size of some of the stroboscopic video sequences makes interpretation difficult.

The book would benefit from a more detailed contents page description, thereby allowing the reader to locate relevant topics more easily. The stroboscopy chapter is very lengthy and covers many areas which could have been better itemized in order to make the information more readily accessible to the reader. The stroboscopic analysis of typical vibratory patterns is analysed well, but the presentation is somewhat jumbled and requires the reader to turn pages to locate relevant diagrams and then turn back to read the script. A one-page, one-condition approach would have been more user-friendly.

The final chapters, on other techniques for examination of vibratory patterns and current equipment, are particularly helpful.

Overall, this book is a useful addition for both doctors and therapists wishing to make meaningful interpretations of vocal fold vibratory characteristics and to relate these to their stroboscopic observations of the larynx.

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FAST FACTS – OBSTRUCTIVE SLEEP APNEA

Barbara Phillips and Matthew T Naughton

Oxford: Health Press, 2004

ISBN: 1 903734 47 9 76 pages £12.00

US\$28.00

Your consultant shows you the results of the sleep study for a patient who has an AHI of 8 and asks you “Does this mean they have OSA or not?”. If you don’t know, then maybe you had both better take a quick look at *Fast Facts – Obstructive Sleep Apnea*. A quick look is all that is needed, as this 76 page booklet will take you about two hours to read. It will give you a good grounding in the subject, from epidemiology to management. It is set out with colour-coded chapters for easy reference, each with clear summary boxes and tables to highlight important text points. It is a very accessible and informative booklet. I think that for a quick reference book, this lives up to its name. If I had a criticism, it would be blurring of the lines between “facts” and opinions. Usage of terms such as ‘it is likely’ and ‘there is an association’ are dispersed amongst the references to “studies”. There are key references quoted at the end of each chapter, yet the statements of “fact” are not referenced within the chapter. In these days of evidence-based medicine, it would be useful to know just how much of this knowledge is based on strong evidence and what is simply current thinking. Apart from that I would highly recommend this for anyone who doesn’t want to get caught not knowing their UARS from their OSAS.

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