

Book Reviews

FUNCTIONAL RECONSTRUCTIVE NASAL SURGERY

Egbert Huizing, John A. M. de Groot
Thieme 2003. ISBN 3-13-129411-6.
Price Euros 149.00 pp 386

This book is a very worthy addition to Thieme's most excellent portfolio of ENT books. The contents represent a distillation of the senior author's lifetime's experience (Egbert Huizing) complemented by the knowledge and superb artistic contributions from John de Groot.

The text offers a truly comprehensive tour of the subject which is logically set out in 10 parts starting with basic surgical anatomy, embryology and physiology and covering the many complicated functional and cosmetic problems encountered in the nose. The anatomy is complemented by some excellent histological sections illustrating important detail. In the second section on pathology and diagnosis a structured analysis of the problems is offered including both congenital and acquired and the wide variety of common deformities, abnormalities and anatomical variations are most clearly illustrated. The important diagnostic steps including objective investigation of the airway in addition to the relevant points of history and examination are clearly laid out and there is a short section on photographic documentation.

The general principles of rhinologic surgery are set out in Section 3 including tips on pre- and post-operative care, the use of splints and the advantages and disadvantages of various forms of anaesthesia in obtaining a bloodless surgical field. The various incisions are covered in Section 4 whilst Section 5 is devoted to septal surgery from both an endonasal and external approach. Again this section is particularly well illustrated and includes a particularly useful section on special problems such as reconstructing a largely missing septum, septal haematoma and abscess, septal perforation and septal surgery in children.

Section 6 is devoted to pyramid surgery starting with the various osteotomies, wedge resections and hump removal. The section is comprehensive in covering the many permutations and instruments that may be used although the authors do not express an opinion on powered instrumentation in this area. The correction of saddle deformity and surgery on the valve complete this section. The difficult subject of tip refinement is covered in Section 7 and also includes surgery on the ala, collumella and vestibule. Section 8 is devoted to the

nasal cavity and considers in some detail the various methods of inferior turbinate reduction, counterpointed by a section on dealing with the wide nasal cavity. The section concludes with a short consideration of endonasal surgery of the sinuses which in the overall context of the book could probably have been omitted. Section 9 is a miscellany which includes management of acute trauma in children and adults. The special nasal problems in the unilateral cleft lip, sleep related breathing disorders, oncologic approaches to the sinuses and skull base, an interesting section on transplant materials and implants and finally complications. Clearly some of these topics have been included for completeness and for those with a special interest in oncology or sleep disorders, other text would be sought. However, the information on implants and complications are particularly relevant, the latter probably warranting a section all of its own. The final section contains extremely useful information on instrumentation and materials concluding with an interesting overview of the history of reconstructive nasal surgery. Indeed the book is punctuated with historical notes and aphorisms which makes this book a most accessible text, combining theory, practical advice most clearly illustrated and entertainment.

A must for 'trainees' of all ages.

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ESSENTIALS OF SEPTORHINOPLASTY Philosophy- Approaches-Techniques

Hans Behrbohm, M. Eugene Tardy, Jr.,
Thieme. ISBN 3-13-131911-9.
Price Euros 149.00 pp248.

Nowadays, when setting out to review or indeed buy a reference book I like to gauge three very simple parameters to determine its quality. These are, in no particular order, the contributors, content and publisher.

Starting with the contributors this latest offering in the sphere of nasal surgery is fronted by some real heavyweights in the form of Messieurs Behrbohm and Tardy of Berlin and Chicago respectively. Clearly this exclusively German/American collaboration also has some other serious players namely Toriumi, Park, Regan Thomas and Pirsig to name but a few and it is these 'big hitters' alone that confirm the status of this book right at the top of the

pile. It is, however, here that my little system of evaluation hits a snag as I soon came to realize that it is not always 'who' you use but 'how' you use them.

This 'tome' is certainly driven by Hans Behrbohm and he takes responsibility for a number of the subsections plus an expansive introduction which encompasses a potted history of nasal surgery, physiology, septorhinoplasty approaches plus aesthetics, FESS and there is even space for tympanic ventilation problems plus rhinogenic headaches. Professor Tardy is then employed to deliver the subsequent section on contemporary rhinoplasty principles/philosophy and I feel that this is almost a précis of what is to come which is unnecessary. Ultimately I feel that the great man is wasted in this role as it is neither fish nor fowl. He would be far better utilized either writing a specific chapter or the introduction, not a fudge of the two.

Thankfully I am pleased to say that it is onwards and upwards from here with most of the chapters written concisely and illustrated beautifully – both the diagrams and photographs are on the whole of outstanding quality and are reason alone to buy this book. All the various aspects of septorhinoplasty are well covered, from the various approaches plus septal surgery to specific areas such as the asymmetrical tips, saddles and dorsal deviations.

Finally, the publisher is Thieme and this always indicates to me that that this is likely to be a well presented and edited book which will stand the test of time. The cost is 149 Euros (roughly £100) and I feel that this is good value for at least 10 years worth of quiet reading or indeed frenetic last-minute 'pre-operative reassurance'!

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PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF HEAD AND NECK ONCOLOGY

Peter H. Rhys Evans, Paul Q. Montgomery, Patrick J. Gullane, eds. Martin Dunitz, 2003. ISBN 1 89906 606 3. Price £199.00

Newly published this year, the editors have managed to produce a 'Principles and Practice' textbook that has a rare, if not unique, quality, namely a global team of contributors with a particularly transatlantic feel. How often have trainees quoted from North American texts, only to discover that that's not quite how it's done in the UK. Well now here's the solution, a truly superb, high quality textbook, written by both UK and North American authors, not to mention input from Australia, Thailand and Singapore.

Here is a book that could be read by a medical student or a consultant otolaryngologist and both would be enlightened in doing so. A very readable and beautifully illustrated book, with excellent colour diagrams and some high quality clinical photos, this new text is sure to be popular with ENT trainees (world-wide).

Ever wondered how PCR actually works, but were too scared to ask? Check out the chapter on Molecular biology. Likewise chapters on Chemo and Radiotherapy will help, should you ever stumble into an Oncologists' convention. The bulk of the book covers specific head and neck sub-sites and tumour types, however a sign of the experience of the editors are the chapters on Palliation and Complications. It's always reassuring to read someone else's experiences.

The Editors are internationally acknowledged in their field of head and neck oncology and this is reflected in their ability to produce a concise, yet wide ranging, text that is fully up-to-date and well referenced.

It is indeed very difficult to find fault with this text and I've tried, but failed to do so. A concise, truly collaborative effort of high quality and excellent content.

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COCHLEAR IMPLANTS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Barry McCormick, Sue Archbold, eds. (2nd Edn) Whurr Publishers. ISBN 1 86156 2187, Price £45.00, pp425

The Nottingham Paediatric Cochlear Implant team has an international reputation of excellence. Their first edition came out nearly 10 years ago offered encouragement and practical guidance to centres embarking in paediatric cochlear implantation. This second edition reflects the knowledge and wisdom of the wealth of experience gained over this time in all disciplines within the team.

Audiological selection criteria have relaxed, with some children having more residual hearing. Earlier implantation is shown to produce better outcomes. With earlier intervention children are more likely to be in mainstream education or within a unit in mainstream education. More experience has also been gained with older children and those with additional needs.

Significant changes have occurred in electrophysiological and objective measures, pre-, per- and post-operatively. Chapter 6 goes into these issues in depth. The team hopes that their studies will aid fitting, assess neuronal survival and central processing capabilities. Notable changes have also occurred with implant technology. Behind the ear processors have been developed as have newer electrode designs and processing strategies.

This edition is well referenced. The book is aimed at all professionals working with children with cochlear implants. It would certainly be of interest to parents of deaf children who want more in depth information.

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COLOUR ATLAS OF ALLERGIC DISEASES

Thieme, 2003. ISBN 3-13-129191-5,
Price Euros 34.95.

The authors of this paperback book state that their goal has been to produce a simple, clear and current view of clinical allergy and immunology of use to medical students, practising physicians and also lay readers. The authors come from backgrounds in dermatology and otorhinolaryngology but what they have in fact produced is in excess of 200 small pages, of even smaller type, with frequently uninterpretable illustrations. A personal favourite amongst these illustrations is entitled 'Primary Prevention of Allergic Disease' and seems to suggest that a big stick is valuable in chasing off small furry animals, in order to prevent (presumably) allergic reactions to such beasts. Illustrations in textbooks should be there in order to either enlighten the reader further, or to make a simple and obvious point in themselves. Unfortunately many of the illustrations in this book simply serve to confuse, sometimes amuse, but ultimately irritate the reader.

There is a small section on the impact of allergic disease in the head and neck, which I immediately turned to. The text is reasonable, but is in such small print that it is almost impossible to read without magnification and, once again, the pictures add nothing. I am left somewhat bemused by the description of 'livid conchae' and an illustration purporting to show otitis media, which looks more like a diseased cervix. The blurb on the back cover states that many specialists will 'welcome this convenient and current review'. I think not.

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CURRENT TOPICS IN OTOLARYNGOLOGY-HEAD AND NECK SURGERY: MIDDLE EAR SURGERY RECENT ADVANCES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

K. Jahnke, ed.
Thieme. ISBN 3-13-136091-7,
Price Euros 129.00

This book is a collection of review articles covering various aspects of middle ear surgery, from an essentially German perspective. It is in fact an extremely interesting read. It begins with an very thorough discourse on the eustachian tube, from what is essentially an anatomical perspective. It makes extremely interesting reading and I believe it should be sought out by anybody with an interest in the eustachian tube.

The list of references on this chapter is very full, but does contain relatively little of a recent nature. A quick literature search on my part seems to suggest that this is not particularly because work has been missed, but more that little seems to have been published on this topic and the chapter therefore condenses current knowledge in an extremely efficient way.

The second chapter covers biomechanics of middle ear reconstruction and once again is a thorough treatise on the subject, covering the work of Helmholtz from 1868, through Tonndorf and Bekesy, to latter day 3-D modelling and laser techniques for assessing middle ear mechanics in health, disease and reconstruction. Physics was never a particular talent of mine but this chapter is largely comprehensible even to me.

The chapter on bio-materials, tools and reconstruction makes somewhat depressing reading, but once again is thorough in its review of the topic.

The chapter on cholesteatoma is, to my mind, somewhat disappointing, adding little to current knowledge. This, however, is a common problem when discussing cholesteatoma. My personal view is that there needs to be a shift away from a relatively sterile debate of closed and open techniques, towards a greater concentration on the disease from a patient perspective. However, for those about to undertake the intercollegiate examination, it is a thorough last minute review.

The chapter on stapes surgery is extremely interesting and is thoroughly recommended, as is the review on implantable hearing devices.

All in all, I felt this was a very useful edition to the current bibliography and would recommend it wholeheartedly, although individuals purchasing the book should be mindful that it will date relatively quicker than many texts.

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