Reviews

Ear, Nose, and Throat Disorders Source Book


Ear, Nose, and Throat Disorders Source Book is the next in a long series of health reference books that are friendly to our patients. These source books contain valuable information resources, not only for our patients, but for us physicians as well. This particular source book focuses on a large variety of ear, nose, and throat problems. Many of these problems potentially can affect the patient's ability to breathe, swallow, and communicate. A variety of perturbations are associated with these different diseases, including allergies, infectious diseases, trauma, and cancer. Primary care physicians see numerous patients for ear, nose, and throat problems. The information found in this source book provides easy-to-understand descriptions of the various diseases and problems, along with careful explanations of the treatments that should be pursued. The book includes a glossary of terms and an outdated dictionary of organizational resources with addresses, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, and Website locations.

A huge amount of practical information is divided into 67 chapters, which are arranged in 6 parts. After the introduction, a review of disorders of the inner and outer ear is followed by an overview of the vestibular apparatus, the nose and sinuses, and the throat. An emphasis is placed on cancers relating to the ears, nose, and throat.

Numerous practical issues are discussed, including common pediatric ear problems, dizziness and vertigo, acute and chronic sinus conditions, and snoring.

The information collected for this source book comes from a wide variety of sources, including numerous professional organizations and journals, as well as government agencies.

I think that this book serves as a strong informational resource for our patients. It is important for us as osteopathic physicians to be aware of what our patients are reading. I do believe that a well-informed patient derives great benefit from self education, which enhances medical care and our patients' health.

Gilbert E D'Alonzo
Editor in Chief

Nelson Essentials of Pediatrics


This overview of clinical pediatrics is written for medical students and junior house officers who have limited time and an overwhelming body of knowledge with which to deal. A total of 24 authors have contributed to the 19 chapters here. As is frequently the case with so many contributors, the style and quality of each chapter varies. However, the editors have done an outstanding job organizing each chapter with clear headings, multiple tables, and judicious use of bold or italics to highlight important points. In addition to current references to scientific literature, each chapter cites the relevant section of Nelson Textbook of Pediatrics for more in-depth reading. The flow of Nelson Essentials of Pediatrics is enhanced by cross-referencing between chapters.

In the preface, the editors state that they have organized each chapter in a manner that reflects the way a student should clinically approach the patient: history and physical examination, leading to broad-based differential diagnosis; the synthesis of information into organ system; the examination of the course and pathophysiology; and the interpretation of laboratory results in order to reach the specific diagnosis. The main heading (diagnosis, pathology, or infectious agent) is followed by a discussion of epidemiology, pathophysiology, clinical manifestations, diagnosis, and treatment. This fine approach certainly can facilitate learning, but it isn't the approach that the editors here purport to use or that clinical house officers actually use.

With the exception of the 104-page chapter on infectious diseases, most of the chapters average 50 pages and contain numerous figures and tables for an easy, quick read. The first section of the infectious disease chapter takes a clinical disorder approach (for example, fever in infants, osteomyelitis, central nervous system infections). The bulk of this chapter contains organism-specific data. The section on antibiotics sporadically describes each drug, its spectrum and activity, and indications. Along this same line, the appendices consist of clinically useful data regarding drug doses and interaction. Yet, I would have liked to have seen the same approach applied to all the drugs mentioned.

This concise book serves as a comfortable companion to students as they become familiar with state-of-the-art contemporary pediatrics. In fact, I've noticed a distinct shift in students' choices of pediatric texts for their 2-month rotation; more of them seem to be choosing this edition of Nelson Essentials of Pediatrics.

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