Oxford Handbook of Clinical Surgery
Edited by Greg McLatchie, Neil Borley and Joanna Chikwe.

Handbooks are by definition concise and transportable. This little volume is no exception. The third edition, 17 years after first publication represents an excellent consensus of specialists and surgical registrars attuned to what is happening and what is new. When I asked my third year medical student daughter what she looks for in a pocket-sized reference book of this sort, she said ‘It has to have a good index system because most frequently a book of this sort is required in a hurry’.

All OUP handbooks have good index systems and this is no exception as there are no less than six in all! A general index of contents (20 chapters) is contained both on the cover and at the beginning. This is followed by a detailed contents list and towards the end of the book, a list of relevant eponymous terms and rarities followed by an exhaustive A to Z subject index. Importantly, the inside covers (front and back) contain rapid reference tables including surgical emergencies, important laboratory values, useful drugs and perioperative care topics.
Good surgical practice, principles of surgery, surgical pathology and practical procedures are well covered in the first parts of the book. What follows is manageable shorthand guidance of the most common surgical topics (Head & Neck, Breast & Endocrine, Upper GI, Liver, Pancreatic & Biliary, Abdominal Wall, Colorectal and many more). The layout is clear with excellent use of headings and the use of colour to highlight important sub-sections.

Occupational physicians do not need to consult mighty surgical tomes; however, a concise reference book on general surgical topics like this will provide reassurance and support when reading hospital reports and talking with patients.

**Rating**

★★ (For occupational physicians)
★★★★★ (For medical students and F1/F2 doctors)

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