

BOOK REVIEWS

Emergency Radiology 2nd edn

By THEODORE E. KEATS

Year Book Medical Publishers Inc., Chicago, 1989.

The preface to the 1st edition of this book contained the sentence ‘This text is dedicated to the basic tenet of helping the emergency physician get through the night’. This edition, which has been further improved upon, does much more than this and is a useful addition to the book collection of any accident and emergency department. It is written and edited by Radiologists for accident and emergency personnel.

The book covers each anatomical area, section by section. Each portion of the book, which is dedicated to its particular anatomical area, and with different authors, contains clinical and radiological text which is realistically practical and up-to-date. There are many useful diagrams to highlight certain injuries, for example facial fractures and each section contains many good quality X-ray photographs. At the end of each portion is a subsection entitled ‘Normal Variants’, containing good illustration of the common, and some not so common anatomical variations which cause confusion.

In addition to its total anatomical coverage, this book also covers all those radiological modalities which are of use in the emergency situation, for example angiography, etc. The indications for special investigation are given clearly and good quality illustrations of same are included. Also in some of the chapters, for example ‘The Pelvis’, are useful algorithms of clinical/radiological investigation and management of problem injuries. Each chapter ends with a list of sensible references and a list of further reading for those stimulated by the chapter’s contents.

The final chapter in this book is a free-standing Paediatric section, which covers all the common problems of emergency radiology in those who are ‘not simply small adults’, and is useful reading on its own.

The book is written, by all the authors involved, in a style which shows understanding of the problems and needs of those of us who deal with the acutely ill and injured, and who obviously, from the enclosed text, are clinically well informed on their chosen topics. There are occasional problems of terminology, for example references to the carpal navicular and the greater multangular bone (trapezium) but these are few, and, once the alternative names are recollected, the information regains its true importance.

The book is quite large and a little expensive and therefore may not find its way onto the casual reader’s shelf. However, I feel it will make a superb addition to the accident and emergency specialist’s collection and could reasonably be bolted to the desk in any accident and emergency department (or indeed, X-ray department).

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