PEDIATRIC ORTHOPEDICS IN CLINICAL PRACTICE

Peter V. Scoleres, Year Book Medical Publishers, Chicago, 1982, 241 pp., $74.50

The author states in his preface that his intent is to provide a "practical guide to common musculoskeletal disorders" rather than a comprehensive text of pediatric orthopedics. He does succeed in covering in rather succinct fashion most of the acute and chronic orthopedic problems of children likely to be encountered in family practice. The text is well written, and the illustrations are both clear and pertinent.

As is often the case when specialists write books for use in family practice, the emphasis of some sections is not always on the points likely to raise questions and cause the family physician to open the book in the first place. Pathophysiology and diagnosis are well covered, but therapy is dealt with briefly and usually dichotomized into those cases with very straightforward management and those that should be referred. Toenail excisions and mallet finger splinting are two examples of relatively simple procedures for which the author provides little advice other than to refer a specialist.

Because of its breadth of coverage, this book is more suited for reference than for weekend reading. It would be appropriate for residents or practicing physicians wishing to review the pathophysiology or diagnosis of conditions presenting in the office; however, I found the lack of depth regarding therapy a limitation to the book's overall usefulness.

Fred Heidrich, MD
Seattle, Washington


This book is directed primarily at medical students and residents in neurology and other specialties in which neurological problems are frequently encountered. The combined authorship of John Gilroy, a senior neurologist, and Pat Holliday, a resident in neurology, addresses successfully many of the potential problems of writing such a text. Comprehensive and authoritative, the book covers a broad range of neurological conditions, including the rare ones the resident will surely encounter in a residency program. At the same time it is very readable and maintains a good balance of basic science, clinical findings and diagnosis, and therapy.

Some discussion of rare events, such as certain congenital syndromes, are of little relevance to a family physician; however, some of the content is very useful. The discussion of the neurological examination is a good review and includes reference to common dysfunctions. Other chapters that I find particularly good include as
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assessment of the comatose patient, diagnosis and management of seizure disorders, and headaches. The chapter on tumors provides an excellent table of signs associated with lesions in specific areas of the brain. Some discussion concerns fairly recent developments such as the neurological complications of dialysis and neurological complications of patients with Hodgkin's disease and leukemia.

I think the book is a very useful reference book for the family physician.

John R. Hilditch, MD
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This book examines the interrelationship between culture and health care from the broad perspectives of medicine, medical anthropology, and psychiatry. Kleinman advances a compelling ecological model of health care systems. Using extensive field data from personal observation and interviews of patients, families, clinicians, and other healers in the United States and Taiwan, he explains the “inner workings of clinical care” and synthesizes “explanatory models” of patients and healers in diverse settings. These define relationships between healers and their patients. He illustrates the importance of entering their cultural framework to achieve an understanding of the “clinical reality” of each.

The writing is scholarly, richly referenced, and thought provoking. The book deserves a commitment from the reader, who will be well rewarded. What might seem to have limited relevance to the practice of medicine in the United States in fact provides an opportunity to identify and analyze illness experiences, patient-physician transactions, and the healing process from a psychosociocultural standpoint. His conceptualization of medicine as a social and cultural system and discussions of interacting popular, folk, and professional sectors of care with patients entering and leaving at boundary interfaces are especially pertinent to the family physician and generally instructive to all individuals involved in the care of patients.

Eugenia English, MD
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