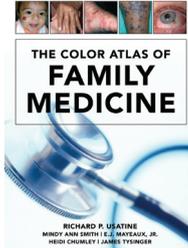


The Color Atlas of Family Medicine



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الأطلس الملون لطب الأسرة

المحررون : ريتشارد يوساتين، مايندي سميث، هي مايو، هيدى تشوملي، جيمس تايسنجر

I AGREED TO REVIEW THIS BOOK SINCE THE IDEA of an atlas in family medicine was novel to me. I was hoping to get a 'clear picture' and I was not disappointed. This is the first comprehensive atlas of family medicine. The compilation of this atlas has required a concerted effort by five editors over many years. Sixty contributors with outstanding qualifications, experience, and knowledge were engaged. The atlas presents more than 1,500 superb clinical images, with its primary purpose being to provide useful clinical information for practising physicians, medical students, interns, residents, and other health care professionals.

The style and organisation of the atlas have some unique characteristics. Readers are urged to spend few minutes reviewing the table of contents at the beginning of the atlas and the topic index. The editors have provided a challenging brief for the 60 contributors. The atlas is divided into 18 parts that reflect the wide variety of conditions seen by the family physician. Family physicians probably see a wider variety of rashes, eye conditions, foot disorders than any other specialty. The book focuses on medical conditions organised by anatomical and physiological system. Both adult and childhood conditions are covered. There are special sections on the essence of family medicine, physical/sexual abuse, women's health and substance

abuse.

The first chapter begins with an introduction to learning objectives with images and digital photography. Then each chapter begins with a patient's story that ties the photographs to real life stories and introduces the content of the chapter. This is followed by epidemiology, aetiology and pathology, diagnosis, differential diagnosis and management. Additional sections on patient's education and follow-up advice are provided. I am delighted that editors included suggestions of online resources for patients and care providers followed by the key references for further information. This format is maintained throughout.

Some parts are very lengthy. Dermatology, gets 467 pages of its own, excellently illustrated and very well complemented with colour photographs and tables. Clearly it is now a major specialty rather than just a subspecialty, which would have merited only two pages.

This atlas has 1,095 pages and is not meant to be read from cover to cover. I therefore urge you to check the index whenever you are looking up a topic. Approaching A4 size, hard backed, and 4cm thick, it is not a white coat pocket book for even the most stalwart house officer, but it should succeed in being just what it sets out to be, a source of rapid reference, allowing students and junior doctors to get clued up on medical

topics with which they were previously unfamiliar, or where their knowledge has become rusty.

This atlas is written for family physicians, but can be invaluable to medical students, residents, and health care providers in primary care. It certainly has much to offer to internists, pediatricians, and dermatologists. It is especially interesting for anyone who loves to look at clinical photographs for learning, teaching, and practising medicine. I hope this atlas will be a welcome aid to all of us and worthy of frequent use.

Despite the novelty of a family medicine atlas, this book was enjoyable to read. As each chapter is only a few pages long, it is suitable for reading when only short snippets of time are available. If you are new to the idea of a family medicine atlas, or if you would en-

joy reading more on the subject from a variety of authors, this would be the book for you.

Can so many subjects be covered adequately in a single book? You, the reader, must be the ultimate judge.

REVIEWER

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