



"Essentials of Musculoskeletal Care"

A Book Review

As indicated in the preface, this volume is "a guide to decision making in the care of approximately 300 common musculoskeletal conditions." As such, the book achieves this goal very well by providing a useful, structured review of many problems seen in the office.

Included are sections on general orthopedics as well as separate discussions of the shoulder; elbow; hand and wrist; hip and thigh; knee and leg; foot and ankle; spine; and pediatric conditions. For each disease or entity, separate paragraphs present the definition; clinical symptoms; examination and laboratory tests; differential diagnosis; adverse outcomes; treatment; and discuss referral decisions as well as "red flags" to be aware of. Each section starts with a "pain diagram" that suggests possible entities associated with pain at a given anatomic location. Each anatomic area is afforded a brief overview discussing type of pain, instability, stiffness, and age-related considerations. This overview is followed by heavily illustrated pages (using x-ray films and excellent drawings) on examination, diagnosis, and injection techniques.

Emphasis is placed on common musculoskeletal problems such as animal bites; hand arthritis; crystalline deposit diseases; osteoarthritis of the spine, hip, and knee; and various shoulder conditions. Extensive coverage is given to hand conditions, including Dupuytren's contracture; carpal tunnel syndrome; sports injuries to the fingers; ganglions; and "trigger finger."

Highlights of the book:

The section on osteoarthritis of the hip provides for each age group an overview of examination techniques;

differential diagnosis; prognosis, with symptoms; and treatment options other than hip replacement.

The section on foot and ankle disorders offers excellent illustrations of various conditions, suggests possible treatments, lists referral indications, describes management of foot pain, and presents points to discuss with patients who have been referred for surgical evaluation.

The spine section includes a concise review of the vertebral levels associated with specific neurologic symptoms or findings and illustrations that may help clinicians to distinguish psychogenic from mechanical symptoms.

The section on pediatric orthopedics is valuable because many conditions seen in adults do not translate directly into corresponding pediatric conditions. For example, many pediatric conditions can be attributed to fragility of the growth plates, and many injuries and infections are manifested differently in children.

In summary, this volume is a valuable desk reference for primary care physicians, for pediatricians, and for orthopedists who seek to quickly review a differential diagnosis that may be outside their subspecialty area. ❖

Snider RK, editor. Essentials of musculoskeletal care. Rosemont, IL: American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, American Academy of Pediatrics; 1997. Available from Customer Service, American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, 6300 North River Road, Rosemont IL 60019-9525. ISBN: 0-89203-162-X. Price: \$100. 686 pages.

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M. Michael Glovsky, MD

"Asthma and Immunological Diseases in Pregnancy and Early Infancy"

A Book Review

This volume is one hundred tenth in an extraordinary series of publications on lung biology sponsored by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. The book addresses problems that are usually covered only briefly in standard texts of allergy, immunology, and pediatrics: namely, effects of asthma and allergies on pregnant women and, conversely, effects of pregnancy on allergic, immunologic, and autoimmune diseases. Also

addressed are the developmental aspects of allergic disease in infants.

The editors of this large, state-of-the-art book are recognized authorities in the areas covered. Dr. Schatz has devoted many years to studying the impact of allergic disease and asthma on pregnancy and has authored numerous articles on this subject. Dr. Zeiger, too, has been recognized for his developmental studies of allergies, natural history of allergic disease, and



management of childhood allergies. Both editors are physician-researchers in the Southern California Permanente Medical Group (SCPMG), San Diego. Dr. Claman is a distinguished professor of immunology at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Denver, CO. In addition to Dr. Claman, seven physicians from SCPMG—including the editors—have contributed chapters to the book.

The chapters are organized into seven sections: Basic Science; General Therapeutics; Allergic Diseases; Asthma During Pregnancy; Immunological Diseases in Pregnancy; Development and Prevention of Allergic Diseases in Infancy; and Allergic and Immunological Diseases During Infancy.

All 51 contributing authors are experts in their specific areas and have written an assortment of easily readable, clinically instructive chapters—even a chapter on the medical-legal aspects of prescribing drugs during pregnancy. Although the references are ex-

tensive, researchers specializing in allergy-immunology will find that several chapters written in review format do not cover the world literature in full depth; nonetheless, the author index alone—100 pages in length—gives some sense of this book's attention to detail. Overall, this volume will be valuable to family physicians, allergists, obstetricians, pediatricians, and internists who are interested in discovering the nuances of asthma and allergy-immunology during pregnancy and early infancy. ❖

Schatz M, Zeiger RS, Claman HN, editors. Asthma and immunological diseases in pregnancy and early infancy. New York: Marcel Dekker; 1998. ISBN: 0-8247-0095-3. Price: \$225. 1,110 pages.

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The World's Most Admired Companies

In last year's FORTUNE survey of most admired companies, the single best predictor of overall excellence was a company's ability to attract, motivate, and retain talented people. CEOs said that corporate culture was their most important lever in enhancing this key capability. In a Hay Group study, the corporate cultures of high-performing companies are dramatically different from those of average companies. In the most admired companies, the key priorities were teamwork, customer focus, fair treatment of employees, initiative, and innovation. In average companies the top priorities were minimizing risk, respecting the chain of command, supporting the boss, and making budget.

*Jeremy Kahn, "The World's Most Admired Companies,"
FORTUNE, October 26, 1998*