

Pocket Handbook of Esophageal Disorders

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The authors, all experts of esophageal disorders at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland OH, USA, have composed a compact guide to esophageal diseases that will come to be of interest and aid to medical students, residents and fellows immersed in these disease processes. In 16 chapters the authors cover the whole spectrum of esophageal diseases, including anatomy, dysphagia, motility disorders, malignancy, GERD and functional disorders.

The authors have extensively discussed the latest knowledge of esophageal motility disorders including graphic explanation of high resolution esophageal manometry. The latest Chicago Classification of esophageal motility v 3.0 is outlined extensively and ensures that the reader gains a unanimity in the variety of disorders of motility. A unique chapter discusses dermatologic diseases that may have manifestations in the esophagus, a topic not often considered. The chapter on foreign bodies is well informed and well illustrated.

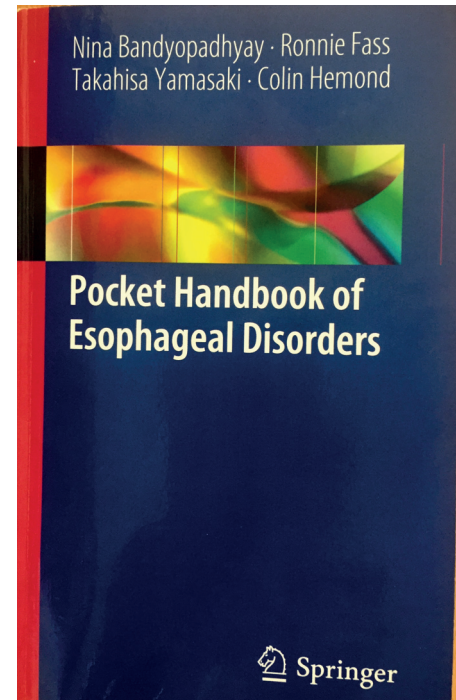
Gastroesophageal reflux disease is a mainstay of those that deal with esophageal disorders. This chapter is perhaps the best in this pocket book. Along with the chapter on esophageal functional disorders, the symptomatology of reflux and the myriad of classification is thoroughly outlined.

Evidence based medicine is the threshold at which we evaluate medical writing. In this view, there is a dearth of references to a number of statements in many chapters (except for Ch. 11. GERD). As an example, in the chapter on motility disorders, in discussing achalasia, the authors state that the results of several meta-analysis have opposing results of prn dilatation vs. Heller myotomy and yet do not cite these references.

An anatomic mislabeling in the discussion of dysphagia lusoria states that "abnormalities of the aortic arch, specifically the right aortic arch with an aberrant right subclavian artery...can press the esophagus..." The anatomic configuration of vascular rings are: left aortic arch with aberrant right subclavian artery or right aortic arch with a left ligamentum arteriosum. Finally, the chapter on graft vs host disease, a very important subject in this era of transplantation, is too short and contains the only reference from 1981.

As nutrition and diet play an important role in the management of esophageal disorders, this topic may be considered in a future revision of this monogram.

Overall, this is a good book that should be in the coat pocket of students and residents as it provides a far encompassing outline of esophageal disorders that would help in the care of these patients. The up-to-date information about manometry and classification of motility disorders is especially valuable for 21st century care.



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