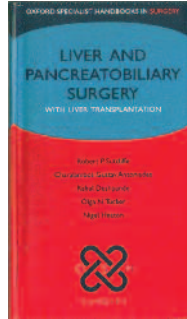


Liver and Pancreatobiliary Surgery

RP Sutcliffe; CG Antoniadis; R Deshpande; ON Tucker; NHeaton
 Oxford Medical Publication 2010
 Pp 295 £39.95
 Flexicover
 ISBN 978-0-19-920538-7



This Oxford Specialist Handbook joins the stable of Specialist Handbooks in both Surgery and other disciplines. They are designed to be "portable, succinct and reliable guides to difficult and challenging areas of surgical practice." This fully maintains the standard of Oxford Specialist Handbooks and achieves these goals. They have long been an aide memoire for junior and middle grade surgical trainees requiring rapid access to comprehensive information in the specialty. It is an ideal book for those rotating through the specialty but not wishing to pursue hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery as a career. It would be insufficient on its own to gain knowledge about any particular topic other than superficially and certainly too superficial to manage these complex patients adequately. However, it provides enough of a guide to allow this grade of trainee to get an introduction to HPB pathologies they may encounter, the investigations, principles of management and outcomes. It is comprehensive in its breadth covering both anatomy and physiology, hepatopancreatobiliary pathology and liver transplantation. It's an ideal pocketbook for those new to the specialty but I would always recommend that it is supplemented by more in-depth reading on any of these topics. The information contained within it would be valuable in an electronic format to be held on personal devices which would further enhance the accessibility. This volume achieves its aim and is a valuable resource and I would recommend it to trainees finding themselves managing liver and pancreaticobiliary patients with the above caveats.

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Perioperative Medicine

J Chikwe, A Walther, P Jones. 2009
 Pp 433. Oxford University Press. £34.95
 Flexicover
 ISBN: 978-0-19-953335-0



Perioperative Medicine (2nd Edition) is a revised and updated version of a highly successful and concise handbook, for managing surgical patients with medical problems. Published by Oxford University Press it has new authors who have refreshed the format and rewritten much of the text, which reflects recent changes to many of the guidelines. It provides comprehensive and practical guidelines for routine diagnostic and therapeutic decisions that are presented in a clear and practical manner.

The first two chapters contain recommendations and guidelines on preoperative investigations and perioperative care. Subsequent chapters describe the practical management and fundamentals of common medical conditions, e.g. acute coronary syndrome, pacemakers, dialysis and nutritional support. A new chapter has been added which provides valuable advice on common problems in oncology and palliative care. The final sections outline practical advice and information on invasive procedures, surgical operations and interpreting common X-rays and ECGs.

Whether it is used as a revision resource for postgraduate examinations, or as a source of guidance for managing perioperative medical problems, a copy of this excellent handbook should be within easy reach of all surgical and anaesthetic trainees.

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Operative Solutions in Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery

Dennison AR , Maddern GJ
 XXXV + 314 pp Hardback
 Oxford University Press Inc. 2010
 £69.95
 ISBN-13: 978-0199584178

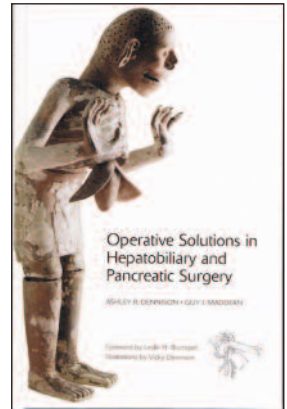
This is the first edition of this book written by two established hepatobiliary (HPB) surgeons and its value is reinforced by a laudatory foreword by Professor Leslie Blumgart. Operative Solutions in Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery is a clearly written, practical text which is well illustrated with numerous figures and flow charts, as well as up to date references.

There is an inevitable drive towards subspecialisation and the requirement for speciality specific reference material is increasing, especially in centres which do not readily have access to tertiary centres. The management of many common conditions, such as gallstones, acute and chronic pancreatitis and obstructive jaundice, as well as less common conditions such as HPB trauma are covered with detailed explanations and illustrations. The text is divided into five main sections: Pancreas, Duodenum, Liver, Gallbladder and Biliary tree and each section clearly highlights salient points, and imparts the author's considerable experience to the reader.

It follows a long line of publications by the Oxford University Press and will appeal to a wide spectrum of surgeons, both specialist and generalist, as a guide to help with the management of daily encountered HPB surgical pathologies, and will prove invaluable for a senior HPB trainee or newly appointed Consultant to act as an aide memoire.

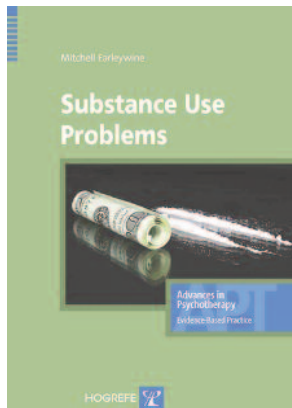
Overall, it is an extremely well written and invaluable text, well worth the £70 price tag.

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Substance Use Problems.

M Earleywine, 2009
pp viii + 73. Hogrefe & Huber €4.95
Softback
ISBN: 978-0-88937-329-7



"Defining problem drug use can seem like a fool's errand" is the pithy opening sentence to the first chapter of this book covering terminology. Yet, as in any other branch of medicine, precise nomenclature which is understood by all is essential for clear communication. Substance usage can be viewed as a continuum ranging between abstinence and dependence, with problems that do not qualify for a formal diagnosis lying between these two endpoints. Thinking instead about the impact of drugs on quality of life can help identify problems before diagnostic thresholds are reached. Awareness of a continuum of drug use also helps clinicians consider strategies for prevention.

This latest title in the Advances in Psychotherapy - Evidence Based Practice series follows the publisher's format of being slim and portable, but suffers somewhat from the single author's idiosyncratic style of writing which, although authoritative, does not always have the limpid clarity of multi-authored titles in the same series. Perhaps this will be rectified in future editions. Nevertheless it is a useful introduction to evidence-based practice in this area, where the penalties for involvement by the serving soldier are severe and where compliance with the Army's zero-tolerance policy is enforced by controlled drug testing (CDT). Military families and other Service dependents however are sometimes affected and thus come to the attention of the Army doctor.

The first chapter defines dependence and abuse (harmful use), preceded by brief descriptions of common drugs, recreational (non-problematic) drug use and problematic drug use. The role of caffeine and nicotine over usage in causing the jittery symptoms sometimes seen in the withdrawal phase of stimulant withdrawal is described in the "clinical pearl" on p 6. On a global basis marijuana is the most prevalent substance of abuse, hydroponic cultivation of the so-called "skunk" variety having become especially popular in North West Europe, with cocaine use in South America and opiate use in Asia representing particular demands by abusers which are fuelled by availability. Mood and anxiety disorders are much more common than abuse or dependence disorders. Discussions about differential diagnosis and co-morbidities complete the chapter, along with a paragraph about diagnostic procedures and documentation.

The second chapter about the biopsychosocial model is brief with no further explicit references to the model in the subsequent chapters. The third chapter covers diagnosis, assessment and treatment indications. It begins with the important point that assessment is the start of treatment. Next there is a paragraph about note-taking, before the use of the Time-Line Follow-Back and the Inventory of Drug Use Consequences are described. Brief discussions about motivation to change, treatment history and social support end the chapter.

The fourth chapter - Methods of Treatment - is the longest, but makes little reference to the continuum or biopsychosocial models. Commencing with an overview of empirically supported treatments, harm reduction, drug safety and abstinence; there then follows a section on the therapeutic relationship as a mechanism of action. The main section advocates a combination of methods: motivational interviewing, mutual self-help and self-help groups, meditation techniques and psychopharmacological adjuncts to treatment. Motivational interviewing is described in quite some

detail, which is much more than a non-specialist can digest in a single or even several sittings. Clinicians should note that randomised controlled trials confirm that participation in 12-step programmes improves outcomes and abstinence rates amongst drug users.

The fifth chapter suggests seven titles for further reading, whilst the sixth chapter provides half a dozen pages of references. The Inventory of Drug Use Consequences (InDUC-2L) and the Shortened Inventory of Problems - Alcohol and Drug (SIP-AD) in chapter 7 are well structured and, though copyright, "may be reproduced by the purchaser for clinical use." From the military Occupational Medicine viewpoint NKC sees the book as being of value to the Service medical officer and occupational health nurse in describing strategies towards harm-reducing or abstinence behaviours, perhaps in the context of Graduated Return of Work (GRoW) programmes in civilian settings. In JPH's view professionals are reminded that focussing on negative consequences is probably more effective than diagnosis, and that assessment is already the start of treatment employing the therapeutic relationship to enhance engagement and increase motivation to start decreasing harm before aiming for abstinence.

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Diagnosis in acute Medicine

Sherif Gonen 2010
Pp 170 £19.99
Paperback ISBN:
978-1-84619-433-7

This 160 page relatively concise new book attempts to present a largely symptom-based) approach to acute clinical medicine. It presents a logical and structured approach to the diagnosis and emergency management of a variety of well established clinical conditions and symptoms.

It covers 39 widely differing topics over seven sections presented in black and white. Section 1 presents a general introduction to medical diagnosis. Section 2 deals with critical illness, section 3 with cardiovascular and respiratory illness, section 4 with common gastrointestinal problems, section 5 with neurological problems, section 6 with miscellaneous conditions such as (haematuria, anaemia and skin rashes) and finally a biochemical section covering topics such as hyper/hypokalaemia. Within each chapter there is a fairly exhaustive and useful list of causes for the conditions presented (eg causes of jaundice, palpitations and oedema for example). This book is primarily aimed at junior doctors and senior medical students, however, may be additionally useful as a teaching, rather than specific diagnostic aid for more senior clinicians.

I was a little disappointed by its rather small type face and rather cramped text which makes it more challenging to assimilate the information presented. Also, beyond the extensive number of tables of lists, I feel that there should be rather more figures and illustrations than the isolated few at present. Nevertheless, this book undoubtedly offers something a little different in its approach to clinical diagnosis and undoubtedly has a market as a complementary knowledge aid in addition the need for a core general medicine textbook.

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