The Journal of Laryngology & Otology (2006), ***120***, *515–516.*
© 2006 JLO (1984) Limited
doi:10.1017/S0022215106001034
Printed in the United Kingdom

Book Review

BASIC OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY – A STEP-BY-STEP LEARNING GUIDE
R Probst
G Grevers
H Iro
Thieme Verlagsgruppe, 2005
ISBN 3 13 132441 4 EUR (D) 49.95

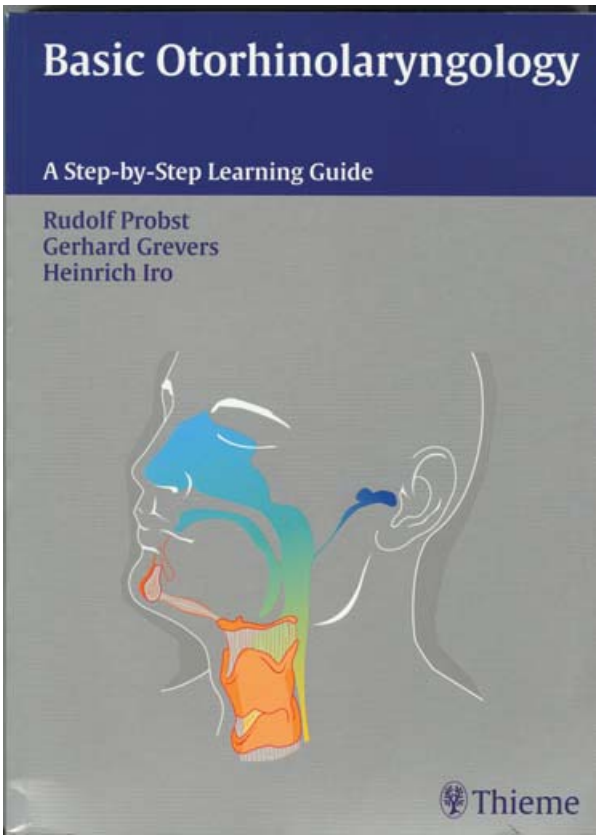


FIG. 1

This book, written by otolaryngologists from Germany and Switzerland, is aimed, according to its authors, at facilitating learning through the understanding of basic concepts. It also aspires to make the process as interesting an experience as possible. These may seem staple concepts for all textbooks; however, those of us who have read such books (and few reading this will have avoided reading at least one or two) realize that most do not fulfil these ideals.

This excellent book does seem to edge closer than most to this Holy Grail; it makes use of fantastic illustrations, clarifying via simple diagrams many concepts that text can complicate to the extreme. Operative, embryological and anatomical diagrams (including examples from the unparalleled *Instant Anatomy* (Whitaker & Borley – a must for that quick anatomical 'fix')), explanatory line diagrams beside scans, and pictorial representations of investigation results (e.g. BERA) are all used to great effect, combining both clarity and relevance.

Well thought-out tables cover embryological timetables, differential diagnoses and treatment strategies (usefully including some drugs and doses). A combined summary of all ENT emergencies is well presented and divided into subspecialties, with references to the main text, including particular caveats – a very useful resource. Flow diagrams are used frequently; however, some are, unfortunately, rather 'busy', potentially sacrificing a degree of clarity.

Facts deemed 'advanced knowledge' are boxed off from the main text; these include enough gems to keep more senior trainees interested.

The breadth of topics covered is impressive. However, although some subjects often neglected in this type of textbook (e.g. speech therapy and voice disorders) are very impressively tackled, certain other essential topics (e.g. head and neck oncology and chronic serous otitis media/cholesteatoma) are dealt with unnecessarily succinctly. This is a shame, and I feel these topics should be afforded the same excellent approach exemplified by the rest of the book.

In summary, this is a textbook that all students and trainees would find useful, that senior house officers and more junior registrars will appreciate for the pure knowledge, and that all those with exams, at all levels, will find an excellent aid to help structure their answers. I also feel it would provide an excellent resource for all ENT surgeons in helping to further structure topics for teaching sessions; I hope that the inclusion of the word 'basic' in the title will not restrict this textbook's audience.

JAMES POWLES, FRCS (ORL-HNS)
Year 6 Specialist Registrar
Charing Cross Hospital, London, UK

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0022215106211034 Published online by Cambridge University Press

YOUR FIRST ENT JOB: A SURVIVOR'S GUIDE
M Lyons
A Singh
Radcliffe Publishing, 2005
ISBN 1 85775 748 3 £19.95

This first edition text offers a practically orientated overview of ENT for junior doctors who have little or no working knowledge of the specialty.

Neatly packaged, the book covers the three main subspecialties in turn. Each chapter begins with a short lesson in anatomy, aided by some useful annotations, followed by a list of relevant questions in taking a history, common ENT emergencies, and, finally, a description of some routine surgical procedures and their potential complications. The text is concise and carefully formatted into short paragraphs and bullet points for quick reference in the clinic or on the ward. A summary of how to run a pre-admission clinic, a list of useful books and websites, and a glossary of otolaryngology terms are thoughtful additions to complete the book.

On the downside, the photographic illustrations are generally disappointing in both quality and content, and include images of outdated instruments and medical devices left in their reflective packaging.

The second criticism is on a more practical note. To be called a 'survivor's guide' implies the book will be there to help you out in those sticky situations. Unfortunately, at A5 size, you're much more likely to have left it in your bag or on your shelf at home than to be carrying it around in your pocket.

Overall, I think the book will satisfy most junior doctors who are passing through the specialty, but career ENT trainees may be left hungry for more.

Simon Charlett, MRCS
SHO in Otolaryngology
Middlesborough

Online Only Paper

Clinical Record

Petrous apex cholesterol granuloma: transsphenoid endoscopic approach, *L Presutti, D Villari and D Marchioni*, E28

The above articles are published online and can be viewed by subscribers at
http://journals.cambridge.org/jid_JLO

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0022215106211034 Published online by Cambridge University Press