

*Childhood Asthma* is a readable, manageable overview of the topic for pediatricians, allergists, and pulmonologists. It also serves as a strong first source for delving further into specific areas of interest.

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## THE ANTERIOR CRUCIATE DEFICIENT KNEE

Edited by Douglas W. Jackson and David Drez, Jr.  
C.V. Mosby

An excellent summary of information on the anterior cruciate ligament, this book presents a number of different viewpoints yet avoids any extreme opinion on treatment of the anterior cruciate deficient knee. A useful review deals with surgical options, as well as timing of surgical procedures. Helpful chapters also deal with knee bracing and rehabilitation of the knee after anterior cruciate ligament surgery.

Many authors offer a variety of opinions. This gives the reader a well-rounded view of the data available. The editors are to be commended in that the text reads extremely well despite the number of authors. This book is heartily recommended for the orthopedic surgeon or resident.

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## CROSS-SECTIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE CHEST AND ABDOMINAL WALL

By Richard J. Wechsler  
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In the preface, the author indicates the major focus of the work is on "morphology and anatomic pathways." The text is divided into six chapters dealing with the

following: the axillary and supraclavicular fossa, the thoracic wall, the anterior aspect of the abdominal wall, the posterior aspect of the abdominal wall, the paraspinous musculature, and gluteal imaging. Each section begins with an in-depth review of cross-sectional anatomy as shown by computed tomography. Some magnetic resonance and ultrasound images are included, however, these are often in a coronal or sagittal imaging plane. While the latter is useful, it is unexpected, considering the title. The last part of each chapter deals with various pathologic processes.

Commonly encountered pathologic conditions are discussed; the volume does not attempt to describe every pathologic entity found in the chest and abdominal wall. The 269 figures are distributed throughout the sections. Chapter 1, devoted to the axilla and supraclavicular fossa, is balanced and includes a good discussion of the radiographic evaluation of the brachial plexus. The role of magnetic resonance in pathology involving the brachial plexus could have been better illustrated. Similarly, chapter 2, dealing with the thoracic wall, could have benefited from a more comprehensive discussion of the various surgical approaches to malignant disease of the breast, the appearance of the reconstructed breast, and evaluation for recurrent tumor. The chapter devoted to the anterior aspect of the abdominal wall provides a useful and well-illustrated section on various types of hernias.

The book is generously referenced. Of the 348 citations, few predate 1980. While the normal cross-sectional anatomy images that appear at the start of each chapter may be found in all cross-sectional anatomic atlases, this text also provides examples of the CT appearance of many of the more commonly encountered pathologic conditions. *Cross-Sectional Analysis of the Chest and Abdominal Wall* is useful as a reference text for the diagnostic radiologist or resident in training.

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