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COMPREHENSIVE PEDIATRICS

Edited by Robert Summitt
C. V. Mosby

This all-embracing overview of health and disease in childhood and adolescence is the descendant of six editions of a previous book, *Synopsis of Pediatrics*. The contributors are mostly on the faculty of the University of Tennessee. Sections on genetic disease, HIV and AIDS, Lyme disease, gynecology, injuries and poisonings, and learning disabilities (including attention deficit disorder) are well updated; sections on otitis media, asthma and cholesterol are not. I felt that the chapter on child psychology and psychiatry presents too much material too briefly, and in an uninteresting manner. I was also frustrated by the frequent omission of drug dosages throughout the book.

The book's layout is attractive and the print is easy to read. The black-and-white photographs, tables, and diagrams are adequate. I especially liked the list of "key points" at the end of each chapter.

All in all, I recommend this book to those medical students or physicians caring for children and adolescents who require an overview of a topic, less intense and detailed than that provided by a large, standard reference textbook.

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BIOPSY TECHNIQUES IN PULMONARY DISORDERS

Edited by Ko Pen Wang, MD
Raven Press

In recent years, the role of the chest physician as diagnostician has increased. Early detection of lung cancer, opportunistic lung infection, and interstitial lung disease are some of the challenges faced by both pulmonologists and thoracic surgeons. In this era of cost containment and emphasis on outpatient medical care, judicious use of invasive as well as noninvasive procedures is important.

This book is a handy guide to the most common biopsy techniques used for pulmonary disorders. The topics are well selected and addressed by faculty interna-

tionally known in their respective areas. The chapters are written in a well-organized format and are easy to read. A brief outline introduces each chapter.

The authors have tried to cover each subject in great detail, from basic concepts to the latest data on each procedure. Pictures and schematic diagrams take the reader step by step through the technical aspects, while the tables summarize the outcome. Information on the role of each procedure in relation to common disease elements and a complete list of references are the hidden wealth of this book. In my opinion, the chapters on thoroscopy, cytopathology, and decision-making and patient management are the highlights of this book.

It would be hypercritical to comment on weaknesses of this publication; however, I feel that some of the areas are oversimplified for the targeted audience of chest physicians. Also, readers might have appreciated some information on the role of photosensitizers in detection of early lung cancer, even though it is not actually a biopsy procedure. This information could have been incorporated in an additional chapter on newer diagnostic technology, including needle brush, flexible biopsy scraper, bronchoscope through the bronchoscope, and endobronchial scintillator detector.

Overall, this book is a well written guide and reference to all commonly used biopsy techniques for pulmonary disorders. It deserves a place in the library of all pulmonary and thoracic surgery fellows in training, pulmonologists—especially those who did not have formal training in bronchoscopy or transbronchial needle aspiration—and thoracic surgeons.

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PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGY: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE, VOLUMES 1 AND 2

Edited by Kenneth F. Swaiman
C.V. Mosby Company

This encyclopedic review remains the most comprehensive textbook in the field of pediatric neurology. The material of the original edition has been extensively