

**Chest Radiology: The Essentials**, 2nd edition. Jannette Collins MD MEd, Eric J Stern MD, editors. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2008. Hard cover, illustrations, 340 pages, \$100.

The 2nd edition of the popular **Chest Radiology: The Essentials** is an outstanding reference text and a pleasure to review. Appropriately titled, this book provides a fundamental understanding of the thorax, complete with radiographs and computed tomograms (CTs) as guides. The book should be a staple reference for radiology residents, pulmonologists, and allied health professionals in the critical care setting.

This edition has a hard cover that is durable enough to withstand many trips to the on-call room and rough handling. It has 340 pages, nearly 800 images, and a user-friendly index. There is a new chapter on cardiac imaging and a special section devoted to the new classification of idiopathic interstitial pneumonias.

Each of the 20 chapters begins with a clear list of learning objectives that prepares the reader for key concepts. The first chapter concentrates on normal chest anatomy. The chest radiographs and CTs will be useful to physicians and allied health professionals, who are expected to be familiar with both modalities. The authors reinforce concepts previously introduced by presenting normal posteroanterior and lateral chest radiographs, with and without drawings and labels of expected structures.

The second chapter tackles several of the common signs and patterns of lung disease. Each sign comes with a classic figure and a brief description of the pathophysiology. The chapter ends with a list of common patterns, accompanied by an excellent table of differentials for each pattern. Separating the signs and patterns of lung disease into chest radiograph and CT sections may be more useful for some readers who are looking for another way to organize the concepts.

The next 2 chapters concentrate on interstitial and alveolar lung diseases. Although these topics may be difficult to explain, the format here is easy to follow, and the figures help "lock in" the patterns. The

tables with mnemonics of differential diagnosis are very useful for quick reference.

The chapter "Tubes and Lines" has several examples of properly placed monitoring and support devices, and figures that show complications associated with device placement. This is an important chapter because critical care clinicians are often required to quickly interpret chest radiographs and place devices that may alter the patient's clinical course. This chapter will ease a physician's concerns about certain procedures and call attention to irregularities in device placement.

The next section addresses thoracic masses, beginning with the mediastinum. The information is made more accessible by separating the discussion into 3 sections: the classic anterior, middle, and posterior compartments. The discussions of supporting modalities, such as nuclear medicine scans, positron emission tomography, and magnetic resonance imaging, complement the chest radiographs and CTs very well. Solitary and multiple pulmonary nodules are also discussed. The examples are clear and succinct. Many readers will appreciate the table on the algorithm for managing nodules incidentally detected on CT, which is an emerging issue because CT is now widely accessible. Some may want a more detailed discussion of positron emission tomography for evaluating solitary pulmonary nodules.

The chapter on chest trauma presents high-quality chest radiographs and CTs (axial, coronal, and sagittal views) of various injuries, and includes several clear examples of aortic damage, tracheobronchial compromise, and diaphragm rupture. There is an especially impressive example of pneumopericardium. The following chapter addresses the structures that surround the outer lung, including the pleura, chest wall, and diaphragm. Detailed discussions about pleural effusions, pneumothorax, pleural masses, and pleural plaques are followed by classic examples. Chest-wall abnormalities and diaphragm dysfunction are also clearly described.

The next section focuses on upper lung disease and radiologic abnormalities in immunocompromised patients, which will be useful for clinicians in tertiary-care settings. The figures give excellent illustrations of

the disease processes described. For a future edition, I would suggest devoting an entire chapter to the immunocompromised patient, with a stronger emphasis on lung transplantation, especially expected changes and complications in the postoperative period.

The following chapter combines illustrations, chest radiographs, and CTs that effectively describe partial and complete atelectasis. This leads to an interesting potpourri of pathology that manifests in a peripheral distribution. Many physicians will flip to these pages when they encounter peripheral lung diseases.

A chapter focused on airway disorders tours the pathology from the trachea to the bronchioles. The CTs are clear and include arrows that point to the abnormalities. Conditions that were not shown but might have benefited readers include lateral views of saber-sheath trachea and tracheoesophageal fistula.

Chapter 15 is well-organized and expertly discusses lung neoplasms. The authors review the histologic classifications and the current staging guidelines for bronchogenic carcinoma, with appropriate supporting images and tables. Many readers may find other organizational frameworks for staging and TNM (tumor, node, metastases) subsets, such as that from Lababede et al,<sup>1</sup> easier to dissect. The chapter ends with an overview of post-pneumonectomy complications and carcinoid and salivary gland tumors.

The section on congenital lung disease is brief but the images fully address the learning objectives. Readers will appreciate the coronal reformatted CTs and magnetic resonance images.

The next chapter provides clear illustrations of pulmonary thromboembolism, pulmonary arterial hypertension, and pulmonary artery tumors. The table on the diagnostic algorithm for suspected pulmonary embolism, the illustration of a pulmonary angiogram, and the discussion about the benefits of CT venography for deep venous thrombosis tie together the concepts in this chapter beautifully.

The new chapter in this edition that discusses congenital and acquired cardiac diseases is timely because there is increasing interest in this subject in both the educa-

tional and clinical arenas. The part on acquired heart diseases is subdivided into valvular diseases, cardiomyopathies, coronary artery disease and its sequelae, and pericardial diseases. The tables, images, and prose communicate the learning objectives with clarity and depth. The images are detailed, particularly the CT image that shows both coronary artery calcification and a right coronary-artery stent.

Chapter 19 focuses on the thoracic aorta in the age of multidetector CT and magnetic resonance imaging. Impressive images of dissections, aneurysms, and repairs solidify these concepts.

The final chapter is for self-assessment; it contains 113 images and recall questions. The images are unambiguous, the questions direct, and the explanations thorough. This is a perfect way to tie together an excellent reference.

This book succinctly and effectively delivers the concepts of chest radiology. The chapters are well-organized, the images are carefully chosen, and the tables are clear. Readers will be impressed with the chapter on cardiac diseases and the self-assessment chapter. In a future edition I would suggest providing more discussion on lung transplantation and optimizing a few of the figures. I highly recommend this book for physicians and allied health professionals.

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#### REFERENCE

1. Lababede O, Meziane MA, Rice TW. TNM staging of lung cancer. *Chest* 1999;115(1): 233-235.

**Textbook of Pleural Diseases**, 2nd edition. Richard W Light MD and YC Gary Lee MBChB PhD. London: Hodder and Stoughton. 2008. Hard cover, illustrated, 672 pages, \$198.50.

Pleural diseases are common chest disorders encountered in clinical practice, with clinicians occasionally experiencing difficulty in establishing a diagnosis and addressing management decisions and options.

Two of the top experts on pleural diseases are editors for the **Textbook of Pleural Diseases**, a resource that provides up-to-date information and insight on these issues. After its 1st edition in 2003, this 2nd edition is a further improvement in context, information, number of chapters and contributing authors. Hard work by the authors and editors has gone into the preparation to make this one of the leading textbooks on pleural diseases. This hard-cover textbook of 672 pages contains 50 chapters, and is divided into a basic science section and a clinical science section. It offers a good blend of both basic science research and clinical information that will be helpful for both researchers and clinicians alike, and is a good reference for any office or library.

The book is well organized with a familiar format. One of the new chapters for this edition is the opening chapter on "History of Pleural Diseases." It is well written and concisely explains where we are currently in diagnosis and management of pleural diseases compared to centuries ago. This is followed by the basic science section. It has 15 chapters devoted to basic science research that has been done thus far in pleural disorders. The authors of these chapters are well known experts in their specialty and have placed considerable effort into each chapter to make it a high quality review. Even for a practicing clinician, the chapters in the basic science section are easy to read and will help to enhance the understanding of the pathophysiology of pleural diseases. The basic science section also has important information for a basic researcher for further research opportunities in pleural diseases. The authors in most of these basic science chapters have taken substantial effort to translate basic research information into applicable clinical information for a practicing physician.

The remaining 35 chapters are devoted to clinical science, and cover most if not all of the pleural diseases that may be encountered in clinical practice. The first 8 chapters in the clinical science section provide information that is useful for any medical professional, not just for pulmonologists alone. These chapters deal with the approach in diagnosing and managing a patient with pleural disorders. The authors are experts in this field and discuss pleural fluid analysis as well as a general approach of using pleural manometry, radiology, and pathology in the management of pleural disorders. The subsequent chapters are arranged under ef-

fusions due to a specific organ involvement, asbestos-related diseases, pneumothorax, pediatric considerations, intervention procedures, and conclusion. Each chapter is easy to traverse since it is well organized into the following sections: introduction, clinical presentation, diagnosis, and treatment. Most of the chapters also contain appropriate tables, figures, and illustrations to concur with the points that the authors have raised. The final, concluding chapter of the textbook talks about future directions that the editors envision. It is a very interesting read, as the editors debate, agree, and contradict important points, and is a fitting finish to this excellent textbook.

Compared to the previous edition of the textbook in 2003, there have been some new but favorable changes to this current edition. Apart from the first chapter on "History of Pleural Diseases," 7 new chapters have been added, including the ones on ultrasound, thoracoscopy, and pleurodesis. The expanded information in the whole textbook is a reflection of knowledge expansion in this field that has been clearly orchestrated by the authors. The numbers of new contributing authors are higher than the previous edition and indicate the increased need and interest among the various academic centers in the world on pleural diseases.

The quality of the illustrations is exceptional and the color plates add further clarity. The abbreviations are well explained in the beginning of the textbook and seem to be mostly covered and explained in the text chapters. The index at the end of the book also appears to be more complete than many other textbooks.

If there is one thing that makes this reference textbook worth purchasing, it is the bullet point summary after each chapter. These summary points are very useful and give a clear and concise review of the chapter in a few sentences. A busy physician who may not have time to read the text chapter may gain valuable information by just quickly reviewing these bullet points. Most of these are concise teaching points that every clinician should be aware of. In fact, it may be useful to convert these summary bullet points into a pocket size small book version to carry around during clinical rounds.

References after each chapter are more than adequate, and the increased number of references compared to the previous version indicate the expanding research and