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### Urology: A Handbook for Medical Students

Bios Scientific Publishers, Oxford 2001  
GBP 19.99

This flexible book for medical students should be commended, since it is one of the few books for this purpose. This handbook is divided into twelve chapters which are arranged in a similar fashion. Each chapter concludes in covering the key points and provides representative cases and references for further reading. Starting with the latter, one wonders, whether a medical student will find a journal like *Neurourology and Urodynamics* or the *Clinical Practise Guideline* No. 8 from the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (p. 44). The quality of the figures varies and suffers from the necessity to keep the price down. The selection of the figures was apparently done haphazardly. Two diagrams are used to cover the principal for managing lower ureteric injuries which are very rare, indeed. Quite in contrast, there is no illustration showing how to handle the far more common urethral injuries. Some of the figures are really unnecessary (index finger to point out digital rectal examination). Some figures are represented in duplicate (figure 1.1 on p. 3 and figure 5.1 on p. 47). The text is well written, but requires sometimes quite a bit of additional reading rather than providing the understanding directly (pp. 36, 37). As one goes along through the various chapters, the references repeat themselves. It is difficult to imagine what help it is for a medical student to find a list of three textbooks (p. 90). These textbooks are relisted in virtually every chapter (pp. 79, 124). In essence, the diligent medical student gets acquainted with urology, but he will miss necessary explanations and illustrations in most of the chapters; so he will need a little further reading to really gain inside into urology.

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### Comprehensive Urology

Mosby, London 2001  
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The usefulness of this book is based on the fact that one finds the complete urology in one volume. This was mastered by choosing experts in their field as authors who were capable to select the perti-

nent references for each chapter and to create a truly readable text. It is noteworthy that a literature review has been deliberately avoided which would have made the text voluminous and difficult to read. Furthermore, the modern reader is already used to deepening his information received from *Comprehensive Urology* by looking into the internet.

The strength of this one-volume book emerges if one is looking for an answer to a particular problem in urology. If you check the necessary workup for stress urinary incontinence, you find this as well as the more complex workup for interstitial cystitis. Competent authors guide you to find a quick answer to your question. This is definitely facilitated by the use of easy-to-grasp tables, algorithms and particularly by showing the principles of management in many illustrations. The explanatory drawings are supplemented by case documents.

Of the 47 chapters, the reviewer found the applied anatomy very well covered. The same holds true when the physiological and pathophysiological aspects of bladder and urethral function are presented in theory and practice. Uroimaging is so extensively covered in a variety of chapters that one gets the impression of an atlas with well-selected examples. Moving on to pediatric urology, the various disorders are covered completely, and it is difficult, indeed, to notice a gap. The same applies to the malformations of the genitourinary tract which are readily conceived.

As far as urological oncology is concerned, one wishes beyond the standard management information to learn more why one should prefer one procedure to the other, e.g., what is the advantage of brachytherapy versus radical prostatectomy? This applies as well to certain forms of conservative treatment for urological neoplasias. In covering problems concerning tumors, one can certainly consult the recent literature; however, this does not readily provide a sound basis for the decision, e.g., to use neoadjuvant or adjuvant therapy for prostate cancer. As a reader I wish to learn what might be the indication for these therapies if there is any. The same applies to the presentation of treatment options for stress urinary incontinence. Is there really still a place for the Gittes procedure? If not, why they mention it? The same is true when it comes to the management of benign prostatic hyperplasia. Is there still a place for stents or for the great variety of heat-based treatments, if the transurethral resection of the prostate remains the gold standard of treatment? Why then covering so extensively nonmedical alternative therapies?

In essence, apart from a few weaknesses, the single-volume book meets the expectation of the reader who buys a text entitled *Comprehensive Urology*. It is indeed a very handy piece of information which allows to learn about the management standards from experts in handling urological problems.

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