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Top 3 Differentials in Radiology: A Case Review, second edition

O'Brien Sr

REVIEW INFO



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REVIEW

Book reviewed by Dr Daniel Bell, consultant radiologist, North Middlesex University Hospital.

This is the second edition of a book edited by Dr William O'Brien, a paediatric radiologist at Cincinnati Children's Hospital in Ohio.

The book comprises 330 cases in total, each one consisting of a two-page spread. The left hand page shows one or more radiological images, with a brief clinical vignette. The right hand page states the key imaging finding, followed by the top three differential diagnoses for that finding. For each diagnosis there is a single paragraph of text summarising the condition. For many cases a further two or three diagnoses are given. The case ends with some imaging pearls and a short list of suggested readings.

The book is divided into 13 sections, each covering a different radiology subspeciality; a final section has 26 "Aunt Minnies", and thus understandably only has one diagnosis per case.

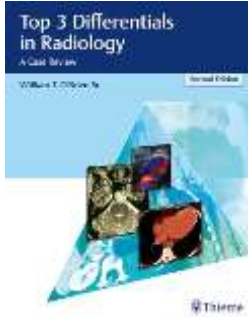
One of the things I really like about the book is the emphasis on the top three diagnoses for each finding. This reflects my own clinical day-to-day practice, usually two diagnoses is enough, and is something I always try to impress upon trainees. Moreover the summary paragraph for each differential diagnosis is a really nice distillation of important points about each pathology.

One of the issues I have with the book is the small size and poor reproduction of some of the images; this particularly affects some of the radiographs. With the best will in the world I struggled to see the abnormality on some of the provided images. It is unclear why this need be the case though, as there is unused white space on a lot of these pages, meaning that there was ample room to provide larger images.

review continues ...

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REVIEW*... review continued*

The inclusion of IVUs seems like a bit of a historical throwback. I don't think we have performed one in our department for more than five years, and I'm sure this is fairly true elsewhere in the UK. Perhaps the situation is different in the USA, although I doubt it.

From a British perspective there is a general dearth of ultrasounds outside the "ultrasound section", an unfortunate reflection of the book's American origins.

In conclusion this would be a useful book for junior trainees studying the core college curriculum, especially as an introduction to each body system. I think it would also be a nice book to flick through before the final part of the FRCR. The book lacks the depth of knowledge required for subspeciality training, but even a seasoned veteran of the reporting room would be bound to find it useful as a general refresher.

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