THE LARYNX, 3RD EDITION, VOLUMES 1 AND 2
By Marvin P. Fried, Alfio Ferlito, Plural Publishing, San Diego, CA, 2009, 1779 pp, $495.00

Since the second edition was released in 1996, this textbook has grown by 1066 pages, so much so that now a single text has become 2 separate volumes. Considering that almost 13 years have passed, there is a significant amount of new information in the rapidly growing field of laryngology on which to report, and Drs. Fried and Ferlito have been diligent in providing comprehensive representations of the current knowledge base on the subject and the growing interest in the field. As with the 2nd edition, the 3rd edition clearly emphasizes neoplastic conditions and is less comprehensive on swallowing disorders and professional voice; however, there is clearly a conscious effort on the part of the editors to “reflect the state of knowledge in the field.”

Compared with other currently available texts, the emphasis on neoplastic disorders of the larynx fills a much-needed niche. There are a total of 30 chapters with 596 pages on neoplasms of the larynx, more than twice the volume of the previous edition. As previously, each specific site within the larynx has its own in-depth chapter. In addition, several new chapters on the epidemiology and pathogenesis of laryngeal carcinoma are provided, including information on immunology and molecular biology of cancer and carcinogenesis. A specific chapter is devoted to precancerous or epithelial changes of the larynx. Also new to the current edition are chapters on chemotherapy and chemoprevention for laryngeal cancer. Rounding out the section on laryngeal neoplasia are the special topics of treatment of the neck metastases and the N0 neck, secondary neoplasms, pregnancy, paraneoplastic syndromes, and prognostic indicators. Also of interest are chapters on future directions in cancer research and therapy and the new topic of laryngeal transplantation.

The target audience of The Larynx is head and neck surgeons, but laryngologists and pediatric otolaryngologists will find this text of interest as well. Although it is impossible to enumerate all of the changes here, some additions of particular interest are evolution of the larynx, pediatric language development and voice disorders, endocrine systems of the larynx, immunologic disorders, and psychological issues. Practitioners looking for comprehensive information on voice, swallowing disorders, or management of the adult airway may not be completely satisfied with The Larynx, although these areas are not well covered in many texts.

In sum, this comprehensive text has been updated with the very latest knowledge by experts in every aspect of the field and would be very useful to the head and neck surgeon who practices laryngology or treats patients with laryngeal cancer.

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