BOOK REVIEW

Karen T. Pitman, MD, Section Editor

EAR, NOSE, AND THROAT DISEASES: WITH HEAD AND NECK SURGERY, 3RD EDITION

By Hans Behrbohm, Oliver Kaschke, Tadeus Nawka, Andrew Swift, Thieme, Stuttgart, Germany, 2009, 472 pp, $69.95

Ear, Nose, and Throat Diseases: with Head and Neck Surgery, 3rd edition, is an excellent introductory textbook that provides broad-based coverage of the practice of otolaryngology. The book is organized by anatomic site, with each chapter including sections covering anatomy, physical exam and other methods of diagnosis, and clinical aspects of the various disorders and diseases affecting each site. While the information provided is densely packed, it is presented in a very concise and easy to read format with superb illustrations. Reading through each chapter is much like viewing a highlight reel of the subspecialties within our practice while providing substantial detail to allow for good understanding of the principles discussed. The length of the text feels appropriate for the material provided, and the tables and figures are excellent. In fact, the tables and figures are much of the reason that complex ideas are clearly delivered in such a concise manner. The photographs provided are of outstanding quality and give excellent examples of clinical findings to aid the reader in their understanding of the concepts discussed. The new sections of voice, speech and language, as well as dermatologic principles for the otolaryngologist expand coverage in areas that often overlap with other specialties. The same is true for chapters covering the tracheobronchial tree and esophagus, giving the reader insight into areas of practice that we share with our colleagues.

While I have very few criticisms of the text, the organizational structure sometimes interrupts the flow of the text. The discussion of the face is included with the nose and paranasal sinus chapter. This section, as well as the section covering the dermatologic aspects of otolaryngology and plastic and reconstructive surgery, includes sufficient information to justify its being placed in its own section. The placement of the obstructive sleep apnea section seems somewhat awkward as well. It is appropriately included in the mouth and pharynx chapter but it is included at the end of the tumors section and perhaps should have been grouped with benign disorders of the mouth and pharynx.

This text is ideal for medical students considering the specialty of otolaryngology and will be a perfect text for senior medical students during their otolaryngology electives. It will also provide a comprehensive introductory overview of otolaryngology for junior residents as they begin their careers, providing a reasonable alternative to other introductory texts. Junior residents will find value in that it will provide a quick review of many topics in a high-yield manner. Practicing otolaryngologists may find it useful in reviewing areas that constitute a smaller percentage of their practice.

Overall this text is well done with an easy to read format and excellent figures that not only complement the material but are essential to the delivery of the information. It provides a high-yield look into the entire specialty. The pricing is appropriate for the length and content of the book and compares well with similar texts. It can be used alone for quick review and study or in combination with other texts to help clarify difficult concepts, and I will certainly recommend it to my students and house staff.

LANA L. JACKSON, MD, PharmD
Augusta, Georgia