Book Review: Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology: Diagnosis and Treatment
Joshua B. Silverman
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What is This?

Reviewed by: Joshua B. Silverman, MD, PhD, SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York, USA
DOI: 10.1177/0194599813515629

Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology: Diagnosis and Treatment, edited by Drs Greg Licameli and David Tunkel, is a new volume in the Otorhinolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery series by Drs Milind Kirtane and Chris de Souza published by Thieme. The purpose of this volume is to highlight the exciting advances in both diagnosis and therapy of head and neck disease in children. Their target audience includes pediatricians, general otolaryngologists, and pediatric otolaryngology subspecialists. Particular focus has been placed on topics that have rapidly changed over the past decade.

Drs Licameli and Tunkel have gathered almost 40 pediatric experts from otolaryngology and anesthesiology departments across the United States to write about 20 different topics within pediatric otorhinolaryngology. The textbook is divided into 4 sections by anatomy. The first section reviews common pediatric otologic issues, including otitis media, sensorineural hearing loss, pediatric vestibular dysfunction, and cochlear implants. An additional chapter on facial nerve paralysis in children reviews not only anatomy and etiology, but also explores treatment options, both pharmacological and surgical in nature.

Section 2 of the textbook deals with the pharynx, nose, and sinuses. The chapters in this section will be particularly useful to primary care physicians, as upper airway infections such as tonsillitis and sinusitis are incredibly common in pediatric practices. A chapter on allergic rhinitis in children is a highlight of this section. Many medical treatment options are available, and Drs Nath and Baroody succinctly describe the various classes of drugs available for allergic rhinitis, using charts to aid the reader.

The final 2 sections are aerodigestive and voice disorders and neck disease. The former section includes chapters on anesthesia, tracheostomy, upper airway obstruction, and pediatric voice. In addition, Dr J. Paul Willging provides an up-to-date review of esophageal and swallowing disorders. Section 4, “Neck Disease,” reviews neck infections, congenital neck masses, and malignant neck tumors. Images and charts allow for easier recall of the various neck diseases, particularly for those readers who may not encounter this range of pathology commonly.

A strength of this textbook is its appeal to both pediatricians and otolaryngologists, particularly residents and clinical fellows. The book is well organized, allowing for contrast between medical and surgical topics. For instance, separate chapters deal specifically with surgical issues such as laryngotracheal reconstruction and cochlear implants, while others review medical topics such as vestibular dysfunction and sensorineural hearing loss. Though each topic is reviewed only briefly, the authors include an extensive list of references at the end of each chapter for additional study. With this volume on pediatric otorhinolaryngology, Drs Licameli and Tunkel have created a worthwhile tool for residents, fellows, and practicing otolaryngologists.