

Problem Solving in Clinical Medicine
From data to diagnosis, 2nd Ed.
by, P. Cutler
Williams & Wilkins, Baltimore, 1985
pp. 603; \$28.00

This thirty chapter book is devoted to teaching the multiple aspects of clinical problem solving. A very systematic and well organized approach is used. The topic is extremely thorough, dividing each section into many subsections that bring out the material in an orderly manner. The material leads the reader away from the more common rote memorization of didactic learning to a problem-based learning, emphasizing logic and rational reasoning.

The text is divided into four sections. Section one provides insight into the problem solving process by the use of a good history, physical examination and further studies needed to attain a diagnosis. Mathematical models of diagnostic processes are utilized in decision making, as well their benefit to the cost efficiency of tests and statistics are provided. Section two informs the reader how to transcribe the information obtained into a concisely written report for case presentation. Also, an exercise in determining pertinent clues from the patient's report enables the learning of narrowing in on the problem. Section four deals with special aspects which may affect problem solving. This includes the pediatric, geriatric and psychiatric patients as well as how multiple drug interactions and emergency care patients may complicate the problem solving.

The third section involves the bulk of the text, providing 65 case presentations. The reader is guided through the process of obtaining information from the case history, sorting out the relevant material, to formulate a diagnosis. This section provides a great learning experience through the encouragement of decision making before reading on to find out what was done. Each piece of case information is followed by a logic section giving possible differentials and rationale for further tests. The case is then followed by a few multiple choice questions to test what you learned. The case presentations cover hematologic, endocrine, cardiovascular, pulmonary, gastrointestinal, renal, electrolyte, gynecologic, musculoskeletal, neurologic and multisystem problems. For the chiropractic reader, the section on musculoskeletal and neurological problems is small but informative.

This book provides an excellent approach to learning, placing the emphasis on the reader to question their knowledge base. The text is interlaced with self study exercises that give a rationale for their answers. This is further supported with recommended reading, not only to assist in understanding the problem-based learning approach, but to further the knowledge base of the clinical presentations.

Although this book is a teaching text and is best utilized by the student, it is an extremely useful text for the practitioner to become acquainted with.

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Book Review editor, Dr. Z. Szaraz

Ligament Injuries and Their Treatment
by D.H. Jenkins
Aspen Publication
Rockville, Maryland, 1985. Available through
Gage Publishing, Agincourt, Ontario, Canada. CND \$60.00

This hard cover book was written by an international team of specialists, bringing together recent advancements in treatment. It deals primarily with injuries of the knee joints but the ankle and elbow joints are also covered.

The book is divided into three parts. Part one on structure and function, deals with the biomechanical aspects of ligaments. The structure of ligaments and anchorages, together with comments on the mechanical properties and actions of ligaments and joints are discussed. These topics include collagen metabolism and healing.

Part two forms the main part of the book and is concerned with treatment. In the treatment some extent of preventive measures are advocated but the treatment scheme is directed towards surgical repair of tendon injuries.

Part three of the book deals primarily with graft materials and is exclusively surgically oriented.

It is an interesting book because it deals with biomechanical aspects of ligaments and their injuries relating them to their mechanical properties and actions on joints and muscles. The book is aimed at the surgeon who is interested in ligament instability and sets out the current view of surgical repair.

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Photographic manual of regional orthopaedic tests
Joseph J. Cipriano, D.C.
1st Edition, 1985, 224 pp. \$25.00 (US)
Williams and Wilkins, 428 East Preston Street
Baltimore, MD, U.S.A. 21202

In setting out to categorize orthopaedic tests by anatomical region and by diagnostic entity as a sub-category, the author has succeeded admirably in this soft-bound text. Such is a logical presentation both in terms of the manner in which the tests are used in practice as well as in facilitating student learning of the tests. This novel format is complemented by a complete alphabetical listing of the tests in the index.

Although not a comprehensive book on orthopaedic testing, it brings together many of the tests which are more frequently used in a chiropractic setting. A welcome inclusion is a section on cervical vascular compromise, whilst the normal ranges of motion of the region being tested precede the actual tests. The photography is of a professional standard and the layout of the book makes for ample space for notes alongside each test. The "Suggested Readings" is a helpful, although not a comprehensive, list.

The weaknesses of the book include several examples of incorrect word usage and a brevity of style which sometimes results in an obscurity of meaning. For example, "expediently" is used when

"expeditiously" is meant; "radiculopathy" is sometimes used to describe nerve pain, whilst on other occasions it is used, correctly, to indicate a non-specific disease-state affecting a nerve root; ankle motion is confused with sub-talar motion and "resisted external rotation" accompanies a photograph demonstrating resisted internal rotation. Future editions will hopefully rectify these areas, for otherwise this would be a desirable volume in one's library.

Finally, and not as a reflection on this book solely, I cannot help but wonder how many assumptions are built into the various orthopaedic tests we use these days, good in theory as they may be. Is it not time that the profession made an effort to determine values of sensitivity and specificity for these tests?

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Clinical Sciences Resident

Essentials of Skeletal Radiology
by Terry R. Yochum, D.C., D.A.C.B.R. and
Lindsay J. Rowe, B.App.Sc.(Chiro), D.A.C.B.R.
Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore, 1987,
pp. 1136, 2 volumes, \$134.50 (US)

Professional maturity is measured in many ways. In the health professions particularly, the most significant measure is the profession's ability to communicate its body of knowledge to other members of the scientific community. Accordingly, the quality and extent of the professional literature is often used as a gauge in evaluating a profession's place in the overall health care science community.

Chiropractic radiologists Terry Yochum and Lindsay Rowe have established what has been referred to as a new benchmark for chiropractic publications with their recent introduction of *Essentials of Skeletal Radiology*. In terms of professional maturity, this new two-volume text might very well represent the coming of age of chiropractic.

Published in early January, 1987 by Williams and Wilkins, *Essentials of Skeletal Radiology* is a professional publication indeed. The book is comprised of 1136 pages and 17 chapters. There are over 2800 references (categorized according to specific topics rather than simply according to chapters), 2500 radiographs (including illustrative studies from chiropractic, medicine and osteopathy from sources around the world), and 500 diagrams and illustrations. There are hundreds of charts and tables which serve to list, compare, differentiate and clarify. It is presented in a most attractive binding and utilizes top-quality paper with clear, easy-to-read type and crystal clear graphic and radiographic reproductions. Most important, the text represents a synthesis of the current knowledge pertaining to skeletal radiology. No longer is it necessary to turn to a dozen or more sources for essential information on bone and joint radiology – *Essentials of Skeletal Radiology* now serves that purpose.

Essentials is a core text for undergraduates, a compendium and reference text for practising chiropractors and an authoritative source for radiology residents and diplomates. It is not simply a re-hashing of information contained elsewhere. The authors present skeletal conditions from a refreshing viewpoint, clarifying material that is often

confusing or incomplete in other texts. Although the book would serve well as a complete skeletal radiology text for any profession, it is written with a constant emphasis on the biomechanical considerations so fundamental and important to chiropractic.

The "Capsule Summaries" featured at the conclusion of each major topic are unique and informative. Each of the 65 summaries include a synopsis of General Considerations and Clinical, Pathological and Radiological Features – essentially summarizing the contents of the main text. Some of the summaries include Special Imaging Procedures, Etiologies, Measurements, Classifications, Treatment and Prognosis. The Capsule Summaries have two main functions: to provide a short reference for those simply seeking a quick review of the primary features of a topic; and to provide a condensation of the primary features of a topic for those who have already read the main text in detail.

Six chapters deserve special mention because they contain essential information that is not usually included in such a detailed format in general texts on radiological interpretation. "Radiographic Positioning and Normal Anatomy" clearly demonstrates – and explains – all skeletal positioning by comparing photographs (not line-drawings), with actual radiographs and anatomical keys. "Principles of Radiological Interpretation" is a step-by-step, well illustrated approach to logical, methodical film interpretation. "Report Writing in Skeletal Radiology" is a necessary topic that is simply not discussed in other publications. Likewise, "Radiographic Artifacts", an atlas of the most common film artifacts, is a welcome addition that should be standard material in all complete radiology texts. "Measurements in Skeletal Radiology" is a compendium of lines, angles and measurements and their clinical significance which is covered with great depth and clarity. "Radiographic Anthology of Vertebral Names" is an interesting and detailed chapter discussing the appearance and significance of some 75 named vertebral conditions.

Eight chapters deal with the standard classifications of skeletal radiology: "Congenital Anomalies and Normal Variants"; "Skeletal Dysplasias"; "Trauma"; "Arthritic Disorders" (with 160 pages and over 550 references); "Tumors and Tumor-Like Processes" (with over 200 pages and more than 500 references); "Infection"; "Hematological and Vascular Disorders"; and "Nutritional, Metabolic and Endocrine Disorders".

The other three chapters, "Scoliosis", "The Natural History of Spondylolysis and Spondylolisthesis", and "Diagnostic Imaging of Spinal Stenosis and Intervertebral Disc Disease", are, like the other chapters, clear, concise and complete. From a chiropractic standpoint however, these three chapters contain the most pertinent information used in everyday practice.

The scoliosis chapter for example is a complete clinical and radiological discussion that is more comprehensive and practical than some books devoted entirely to that subject. Of particular interest is the information pertaining to skeletal maturity, curve monitoring and the selection of treatment and management techniques. Unfortunately, the authors fail to include examples of good-quality A-P (or P-A) full-spine radiographs – a procedure originated by chiropractors and of importance in scoliosis evaluation. Based on the current literature, it seems that medicine might be taking a greater interest in 14" x 36" radiography than chiropractic. (Ironically, full-spine radiography could conceivably

become chiropractic's lost art!) An explanation of the technical procedures of producing full-spine films is provided in the positioning chapter.

Spondylolysis and Spondylolisthesis are discussed extensively. The authors have studied the literature thoroughly. They provide ample evidence to question some of the more common theories and hypotheses regarding these common conditions. They discuss epidemiology, etiology, classification and mensuration then apply that knowledge the clinical relationship between pain, instability and impairment. They question for instance, the AMA's guidelines to impairment ratings regarding spondylolisthesis and further provide a novel hypothesis of their own to explain the increased incidence of pars defects in the eskimo population.

Everyone involved in managing back pain will find "Diagnostic Imaging of Spinal Stenosis and Intervertebral Disc Disease" most appropriate. The authors state that "For examinations of the skeleton, there is no modality to match the time and cost effectiveness of the plain film radiograph. It is from this "plain film" perspective that *Essentials* has been written and supplemented with examples of more complex imaging technologies." It is in this chapter that the importance of and the indications for these more sophisticated procedures are outlined.

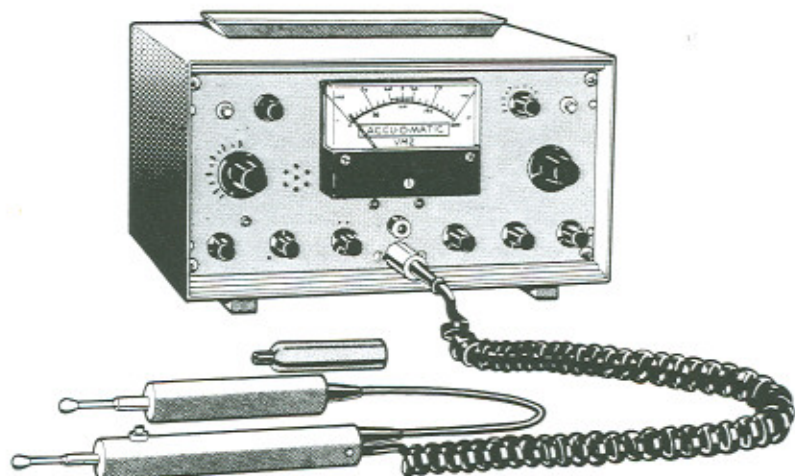
Brief – yet thorough – discussions of CT, MRI, myelography, discography and other procedures are discussed with regard to their unique role in the differential diagnosis of stenotic and degenerative conditions of the spine.

Joseph Howe, DACBR contributed significantly to the chapter on Diagnostic Imaging. Other contributors are: Gary Guebert, DACBR on "Anomalies and Variants" and "Anthology of Vertebral Names"; Margaret Seron, DACBR on "Skeletal Dysplasias", and David Thomas, MD and the late Bryan Hartley, MD (to whom the book was dedicated) both of whom also co-authored "Anthology of Vertebral Names" chapter.

Yochum and Rowe have compiled what Howe has termed a "monumental effort". It is a textbook which should occupy a treasured place in the library of every chiropractic student, practitioner and diplomate. It will not only serve as a very practical and useful textbook, it will serve as a proud reminder of chiropractic's contribution to the health care sciences. For that contribution, the authors deserve the appreciation and gratitude of the entire profession.

J Taylor DC / North Vancouver

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LABDATAtm
Reference Manual
Quick Information on Test Results for the Chiropractor
Labdata Service Co., Arizona, 1982.
pp. 95, \$14.95, U.S.

This handy manual provides easy access to information regarding laboratory test results. It is well organized and thereby facilitates quick reference to normal values.

Common tests pertaining to urinalysis, hematology and blood chemistries are discussed. The emphasis of material is placed on the most common tests ordered in these areas of laboratory diagnosis, as well as those conditions most significantly detected by each test.

If there are any weaknesses in the content of this manual, they would be the poor referencing of the basic material. Had a more extensive bibliography been provided, an additional reference source would have been available for readers requiring further insight into a specific test. With the rapid advancement in laboratory testing, since 1982, a few tests covered in this manual (SMA 12/60, SGOT) are becoming obsolete; as such, a revision of this manual will be necessary to bring it up to date.

As stated in its foreward, this manual is by no means intended to be an exhaustive treatise on the subject of laboratory diagnosis. It is however an extremely useful compendium of laboratory tests which are significant to everyday clinical practice.

For its modest cost, it is certainly a worthwhile investment for both intern and clinician alike.

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