SALIVARY GLAND DISORDERS AND DISEASES: DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT


I have had the privilege of editing 2 books in my career. The first was published in 2005 and titled Salivary Gland Diseases. It was with considerable interest that I accepted the opportunity to review this text.

Editing a book is a labor of love that requires the editor or editors to have (1) a comprehensive and passionate knowledge of the subject matter, (2) an eclectic skilled group of chapter authors, (3) a willingness to rewrite an unconvincing chapter, and (4) a vision of where the field is moving. When these goals are largely accomplished the book comes to life for the reader.

Dr. Bradley and Dr. Guntinas-Lichius are both highly regarded, accomplished salivary gland physicians and surgeons. They have edited a comprehensive 486-page volume that is a first edition. To the credit of Thieme Publishers, the book is filled with plentiful relevant color figures and tables. The general layout of the book is striking. It is targeted to practicing otolaryngologists, head and neck surgeons, and oral/maxillofacial surgeons, and can serve as an excellent source for residents in training.

The chapter authors are many of the best and brightest of Europe. The surgical photographs are detailed and highly instructive. I particularly appreciated the print space devoted to imaging. No field of medicine has greater histopathologic variation for neoplasms. The histopathologic photomicrographs devoted to benign and malignant neoplasms left one longing for a little more.

The book will serve resident physicians extremely well with tried and true surgical approaches. A more expanded coverage of extracapsular dissection, an European initiative, its risks and benefits, for benign neoplasms including pleomorphic adenoma, would have been stimulating for the advanced reader. The book is very strong in regard to all aspects of clinical medicine. My personal preference would have included a more in-depth coverage of general salivary physiology as well as pathogenesis of calculi.

I read many of the chapters from beginning to end and found them uniformly of high quality. The editors have done their work skillfully, as demonstrated by the way the chapters interdigitate.

This book comprehensively covers nearly all aspects of salivary gland diseases and disorders. Sialendoscopy is a rapidly advancing field with a sharp learning curve. I wanted to read more. The 2 brief sialendoscopic chapters, although classic in their approach, do not fill the wide chasm between transcervical approaches and minimally invasive sialendoscopy. A varied expert instruction and contrasting opinion would help close the gap. Combined transoral/sialendoscopic techniques and ducal cut down approaches beg for more detail.

Molecular biology and genetics are portioned nicely. The salivary gland regeneration chapter is well written and of sensible length for most readers. This is an area that needs inspiration to solve xerostomia postradiation, arguably one of the most pressing research areas in the salivary gland domain.

MEDICAL GENETICS IN THE CLINICAL PRACTICE OF ORL

By: Raye L. Alford, V. Reid Sutton, Karger, Basel, Switzerland, 2011, 158 pp, $328.00

Medical Genetics in the Clinical Practice of ORL is a succinct yet comprehensive compilation of clinically relevant material on the contributions of genetics to the practice of otolaryngology. The authors sought to produce a practical guide for clinical otolaryngologists to better understand the impact and clinical importance of genetics. The authors take several chapters to review clinical genetics to familiarize practicing otolaryngologists with genetic terminology and concepts. Contributing authors who are experts in the field describe the current level of understanding and the future directions of study for diagnoses known to be associated with genetic etiologies, such as hearing loss, multiple endocrine neoplasia, and cleft lip/palate, as well as other common otolaryngologic diagnoses such as otitis media, rhinosinusitis, and vestibular disorders. In the field of otolaryngology, genetic therapy has primarily been centered on head and neck cancer. The authors summarize the variety of approaches and delivery vectors for genetic therapy.

The book is nicely organized, with each chapter focused on a narrow topic for ease of reading and understanding (eg, hearing loss and pigmentary problems, cleft lip/palate). Most chapters are 5 to 8 pages long, offering a succinct review of the medical issue and then including what is new and cutting-edge in the field. The text is well written, and frequent tables and figures augment the text nicely. A number of figures are in color, which is particularly helpful for the chapter on Usher syndrome. Focused yet complete references are at the end of each chapter. Important online resources such as the Hereditary Hearing Loss Homepage are also described.

In the first 5 chapters, basic genetics, medical genetics and genetic counseling are reviewed. This information would be
SALIVARY GLAND DISORDERS


The book Salivary Gland Disorders is well organized, easy to read, and informative. The editors have invited a group of internationally recognized experts to contribute chapters to their book. The authors provide an excellent summary of each subject area using their own expertise and experience to guide the content. There are no other textbooks currently available that provide such a complete review of diseases of the salivary glands and their treatment.

This textbook is a unique comprehensive resource for clinicians who treat patients with salivary gland disorders. It is organized into 29 chapters that review the entire scope of information regarding salivary glands, from anatomy and physiology to treatment of salivary gland disorders. The text provides a detailed review of our current knowledge of salivary gland disease, including topics such as management of infections, sialography, reconstruction, chemotherapy, and quality of life in patients with salivary gland disorders. The information is provided in a fashion that can be effectively used by students and practicing physicians from such diverse specialties as family medicine to head and neck oncology.

A major strength of the book is its well-organized chapters that allow the reader to quickly review a subject area or to perform a more in-depth study of each subject. Each chapter includes a "Core Feature Section" that allows the reader to easily determine the major content of the chapter and "Take Home Messages" that provides the reader with a quick summary of the key learning points. The photographs, diagrams, and tables combined with the text allow the reader to easily grasp the information being presented.

The chapters addressing anatomy, physiology, pathology, and diagnosis are informative and include clinically relevant information. The chapter reviewing the pathology of salivary gland disease is particularly well written, not only reviewing the pathology but also providing a brief summary of the salient clinical information. For surgeons, the chapters addressing surgical therapy are written and illustrated in a straightforward manner that allows the beginner to understand the key concepts and the expert to appreciate the subtleties of surgical management. The use of illustrations in combination with clinical photographs is particularly effective in communicating surgical concepts. The sections on medical and radiation therapy are equally well written.

The ability of this text to provide concise and clinically relevant information or allow the reader to obtain an in-depth review of a topic is a particular strength of this text that allows it to stand out from other available publications. I would highly recommend this textbook to all clinicians who manage patients with salivary gland disorders.

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