Book Review


*Differential Diagnosis in Otolaryngology* is uniquely organized by symptoms rather than by disease. It addresses the initial patient encounter, when a patient relates what symptoms caused him to present to his otolaryngologist. In a concise and easily referenced format, the reader is able to review the complete differential diagnosis for a particular symptom and plan an evaluation to arrive at the proper diagnosis.

The book’s strength is that it does not present long exposés of disease entities followed by their signs and symptoms. Instead, it lists the disease as a differential diagnosis of 79 basic symptoms. There are also chapters that summarize various diagnostic tests to further enhance one’s medical decision making.

Experienced otolaryngologists may find this format elementary. The usefulness of this text is in its comprehensiveness by including some of the lesser known, often overlooked diseases in the differential diagnosis.

The book mimics, in 498 well-organized pages, the actual thought process that every otolaryngologist uses to properly diagnosis each patient’s symptoms. For a general otolaryngologist, it could be referred to during or in between a patient encounter. The format also lends itself well to lecture preparation and didactic teaching of nonotolaryngology medical personal and physicians. As a source that will only enhance one’s diagnostic skills, this text should be an essential part of each otolaryngology resident’s education and each general otolaryngologist’s office.

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