

in eight countries. The layout of this A5-sized book is clear and precise. The contents are divided into six sections—head and neck imaging, musculoskeletal and spinal imaging, thoracic imaging, abdominal imaging, paediatric imaging, and women's imaging. The main content is preceded by a short list of abbreviations. A summary list of diagnoses of all cases is found at the end of the book and is followed by an index.

The content has been chosen carefully and balances commonly encountered clinical situations with specific findings of some interesting cases. Each case report includes appropriate clinical background, laboratory data, and the initial radiological images for interpretation in the form of a radiological quiz. The answer is presented on the following page together with image interpretation, diagnosis, clinical course, and discussion with a short list of references. The editor has performed a good job in maintaining a consistent style throughout the book and designating the appropriate length and detail of each case.

The book is intended for reading by family physicians, hospital-based doctors, trainees in various medical specialties (including diagnostic radiology), and senior clinical clerks. I found the book very readable. It is not difficult to assimilate the rich educational material contained in the illustrative cases, even with light reading. A clinical and problem-oriented approach has been the consistent theme. The imaging materials and approaches are up-to-date and the discussions are succinct and informative. Overall, a correct perspective has been given to the application of various imaging modalities, such as the role of nuclear medicine and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). I like, in particular,

the more detailed description on the role and limitations of MRI in various clinical settings. This information will considerably help those who are not too familiar with this newer imaging modality in the correct choice of imaging investigations.

The book is richly illustrated with 234 black-and-white photographs. It would be more vibrant if the operative photographs and pathology images were in colour, bearing in mind the implication of a higher production cost. There is quite a wide variation in the size of each photograph and this could also be improved in future editions. Quite significant artefacts are observed in Figures 5.1A, 5.1B, and 5.1C. Nevertheless, these minor defects in presentation do not overshadow the consistent high quality of the illustrations.

*Clinics in Diagnostic Imaging* is a gem, and I do not hesitate to recommend this book to medical students, interns, clinicians, radiographers, and trainee radiologists. It is very affordable and serves as a useful reference that would certainly provide the reader with reading enjoyment while assimilating clinically useful knowledge during the process. Radiology is a rapidly evolving field and the publication of a book that provides contemporary imaging guidance in many clinical situations can only be of benefit.

Dr KH Fung  
Consultant Radiologist  
Department of Diagnostic Radiology  
Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital  
3 Lok Man Road  
Chai Wan  
Hong Kong

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## The ICU book, second edition

By: Marino PL

Williams & Wilkins Asia Pacific Ltd., Room 808, Metroplaza Tower 2, 223 Hing Fong Road, Kwai Fong, Hong Kong  
HK\$347.50, pp 969, ISBN 0 683 05565 8

This soft-cover book consists of 928 pages of text that are divided into 14 sections, 54 chapters, and four useful appendices. The preface states that it is the intention of the author to provide a generic book for intensive care units (ICUs), with an emphasis on fundamental principles. The book achieves its objectives admirably. The author is clearly a hands-on practitioner as well as a teacher, and this is reflected in the style and problem-oriented manner in which most of the important topics are approached. The strength

of the book is in the author's excellent explanations of fundamental physiology and pathophysiology, as they relate to intensive care problems and decision making. As an introduction to fundamental intensive care principles for 'first timers' in the ICU such as critical care nurses, rotating specialists in training, and new intensive care specialist trainees, this book is ideal.

Key principles of management are addressed. Chapter 1, 'Early management of acute myocardial

infarction' is an example of how an often complex and confusing subject can be reduced to a clear and simple synopsis of current evidence and practice. The chapter concentrates on the aspects of therapy that involve general intensive care and only briefly mentions therapeutic options when doctors of other specialties would take over primary patient care (eg cardiologists performing angioplasty). By only highlighting the role of general intensive care, the book is kept to a reasonable length. It also provides numerous easy-to-follow rules and algorithms for the newcomer to intensive care, which allow seemingly complex problems to be more easily resolved—the section on acid-based disorders is a good example.

The advantage of this being a single-author book is that the style is consistently good and explanations are clear and concise. The tables are informative and concise, and diagrams are attractive and useful. The book reads easily and desired information, if covered, is quick to find. An example of the author's obvious teaching talent is the excellent chest radiograph reproduction of a feeding tube in the right main bronchus, which dramatically illustrates a teaching point that should never be forgotten once this radiograph has been seen. The absence of a chapter number at the top of each page is a little irritating, as most cross-referencing in the text is done by chapter. The book is far from comprehensive—chapters on trauma, burns, obstetrics, poisoning (other than selected pharmacological poisonings), and airway obstruction/management are missing. This book will always, therefore, need to be

supplemented by other, more comprehensive texts. There is some disparity with respect to detail and content in certain chapters and this would also have to be overcome with supplemental reading.

Intensive care is rapidly changing, particularly with regard to evidence-based practice, and it is becoming impossible for any individual to be fully up to date in every field. It is not surprising therefore that there are some shortcomings in the discussion and suggested implementation of certain evidence-based practices. I do not, however, see the shortcomings as a major drawback, as discussing evidence-based medicine is not the primary objective of this book.

*The ICU Book* achieves what it sets out to do—encouraging the understanding of the fundamental pathophysiology of critical illness and the key principles of management of common intensive care problems. It is a valuable introductory text to intensive care and deserves a place in any departmental library. I will certainly refer to it for tips when asked to explain difficult concepts to both junior and senior resident staff in our ICU.

Dr GM Joynt  
Associate Professor  
Department of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
Prince of Wales Hospital  
Shatin  
Hong Kong

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