

Netter's Concise Atlas of Orthopaedic Anatomy

Author: Jon C. Thompson
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In this text, Thompson has combined the brilliant and highly detailed images composed by Frank Netter, along with clinically relevant material to produce a condensed, but detailed reference. The author's intention was to produce a book of this nature so that students would not get as frustrated as he did when he was a medical student and did not have access to a book of this kind. Jon Thompson is currently serving as a resident orthopaedic surgeon in the United States.

Each chapter of the book provides a complete, yet succinct overview on a particular area of the human body, which is colour coded for ease of reference. Each subsection contains a highly elaborate, yet clear Netter image and table format with information that is highly specific to that region of the body. This is achieved by providing accurate and simplified information on general anatomy, disorders, trauma, history, physical exams, radiology, surgical approaches and minor procedures. Within the information, Thompson cleverly highlights certain details relating to general text, danger signs and clinically relevant points.

A particular strength of the text is the incorporation of Frank Netter's images. The illustrations that Netter has produced are very clear, concise and easy to comprehend, which provides the reader with an accurate representation of the specific region of the body. The tabulated format provides

the reader with a highly detailed yet concise source of clinically relevant information. The actual size (A5) and weight of the text, provides both accessibility and portability. Many text books are cumbersome and have far too much detailed information, being less user friendly to those seeking a quick reference.

One area of the text that took a little bit of getting used to was interpreting the table style format. The reader may initially find it hard to follow, whereby perhaps the introduction of lines between the groups of facts may help with the interpretation of the text. However, once the reader grasps the format, the text can work out to be very user friendly.

The text is not only written for students in the field of orthopaedics, but may serve as an invaluable resource to any student studying general medicine and all forms of manual therapy. The book costs around AUD\$90, making it ideal for students. Thompson has produced a text that appears to be the first successful book of its kind, that is accessible and affordable to students. With the inclusion of Netter's fantastic illustrations, balanced with the condensed tabulated format, it would especially appeal to students that are visual learners, and also to those practitioners who need to revisit and refresh their knowledge on some formerly covered ground.

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