

I H Sendut, Z Ismail, H Ariffin

Paediatric Picture Tests for Medical Students

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The use of high quality unambiguous clinical pictures provide valuable learning opportunities for medical students and postgraduates. The authors present 100 pictures with relevant questions and clear answers often accompanied by helpful comments. The spectrum of clinical disorders shown is broad – over half of the pictures are devoted to rashes or blemishes of the skin and mucous membranes, and to X-rays and imaging of various organs. Congenital abnormalities, eye conditions, genital abnormalities and selection of miscellaneous problems make up the remaining clinical pictures: blood films, electrocardiograms (ECGs) and the gross appearance of urine samples complete the presentation.

The book contains a great deal of information in an easily 'digestible' form and is perhaps more useful to postgraduate students preparing for clinical examinations.

It does not really fulfill its primary aim – to help hard pressed medical students. Only 60% of the illustrations are targeted to medical students and their selection does not appear to have been based on careful consideration of what medical students ought to learn or be taught during their limited clinical exposure to paediatrics. Thus eczema, perhaps the commonest skin condition in children is not shown and only one picture illustrates child development. Occasional pictures are either ambiguous or poorly presented. Overall however, the authors have made an excellent start and one looks forward to seeing a more focussed and discriminating approach in future editions designed to meet the needs of medical students.

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