

Atlas of Roentgenographic Measurement, Sixth Edition. Theodore E. Keats, Mosby Year Book, St. Louis, 1990, 710 pp, \$89.95.

This book is the sixth edition of a classic reference. In the current edition, measurements related to outdated modalities such as pneumoencephalography have been excluded. However, measurements of many new diagnostic modalities have been added, which keeps this volume up to date. In addition to plain film measurements, there are relevant measurements in ultrasound, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, as well as nuclear medicine.

The volume is divided primarily by organ system with additional chapters on geometric distortion of the Roentgen image and its correction, pelvimetry and fetal measurements, and metric system conversions. Also present is an index that includes many cross references. For example, biparietal diameter is listed as such but also cross-referenced under ultrasound, fetus, and gestational age, making it easy to access. Concise diagrams and figures are included where appropriate to clarify how the measurements should be made. References and short explanations of the studies leading to the measurements are present.

The measurement tables themselves have changed to reflect current imaging techniques such as computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging. Included are over 20 tables of computed tomographic measurements, including tables pertaining to the size and shape of the adrenal glands, aortic diameter in adults and children, and spinal canal measurements. A large section covers fetal ultrasound measurements, with over 40 pages of tables featuring biparietal diameter, fetal head circumference, and femur length as estimates of gestational age. Also present are fetal weight and growth parameters as well as tables to aid in assessment of intrauterine growth retardation.

A potential limitation to a book such as this is that, in many instances, the appearance of a finding is more important than the actual measurement. In fact, the inappropriate use of a measurement may be misleading. However, most radiologists and clinicians use measurements routinely

in a number of instances. In the proper setting, the use of measurements lends objectivity to the Roentgenographic interpretation. This volume stands as the classic reference for this purpose.

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Learning Medical Terminology, 7th Edition. Miriam G. Austrin and Harvey R. Austrin. Mosby Year Book, Inc., St. Louis, 1991, 544 pp, \$25.95.

Finally, learning medical terminology can be fun and easy. The authors of the seventh edition of *Learning Medical Terminology* have skillfully written a text which makes terminology relatively easy for transcriptionists, medical secretaries, technicians, technologists, and nurses to master. The book is written in a manner such that each section develops logically from one phase into another making it easy for the student to learn and understand both the complex spelling and definitions of words as well as the structure of the human body.

The authors devote the first section of the text to the fundamentals—suffixes, prefixes, roots, and combined forms. This gives the student the tools necessary to move forward with the task at hand—learning medical terminology.

Once this foundation is established, the authors introduce the student to human anatomy. They begin each chapter with an overview of what the students can expect to learn in that section. The diagrams contained in each chapter are exceptionally well done, detailing each body system thoroughly as evidenced in Chapter 9, the Cardiovascular and Lymphatic System. They clearly delineate the heart so that the student can readily identify each chamber of the heart in detail. The breakdown of the hematologic system is well illustrated so that the student has a clear understanding of the blood and, specifically, each cell type. The remaining chapters follow the same pattern, giving the secretary, nurse, or medical student a very in-depth understanding of the human body.

From the viewpoint of someone who has had to train individuals who have had little or no prior experience with medical terminology, I found this book an excellent teaching tool and one that helps the student considerably. The book is well illustrated, beginning with vivid color plates detailing the principal parts of the body. Multiple figures enhance learning by giving a visual understanding of specific areas as they are discussed. Each chapter concludes with a review, which reemphasizes what has been covered in each chapter. The continued use of crossword puzzles and the addition of hidden word puzzles makes it fun to review what has been discussed. In Section II, the Body Shell and Its Supports, the authors have sought to assist the student in mastering the terminology of each new system by the extensive use of glossaries throughout chapters in this section. The glossaries are arranged in a manner such that they can be used in the future as a quick reference guide. The authors also have included the phonetic pronunciation of difficult terms, which helps familiarize the student with the proper pronunciation of difficult terminology. The authors also have included detailed tables, as in Chapter 13, the Endocrine System. Here, a complete list of glands, the hormones they secrete, and their function appear in a convenient tabular format. The book has been designed in a manner that enables the student to reference a specific area quickly and easily.

Overall, this text is well written, complete, and up-to-date. Its coverage ranges from basic anatomy to modern immunology. Chapters devoted to hospital reports, medical insurance, and medical specialties provide a useful introduction for students and are very apropos in today's medical climate.

Learning Medical Terminology is a comprehensive and great teaching text as well as a fabulous learning text. It would be a welcome addition in every medical office as a reference book and is an excellent text for use by teachers in the training of future transcriptionists, medical secretaries, technicians, technologists, and nurses.

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