Book Review

Medicine@your fingertips
Santhosh M Patil
Assistant Professor, Dept of Internal Medicine, Sapthagiri Institute of Medical Sciences, Bengaluru.

Received 2020 August 20; Accepted 2020 October 26; Published Online 2020 December 3

Medicine@your fingertips
For MD/DNB Postgraduate Students and Practitioners
3rd Edition
Gireesh Kumar K P
PARAS Medical Books

*Correspondence: drsanmp@gmail.com
Assistant Professor, Dept of Internal Medicine,
Sapthagiri Institute of Medical Sciences, Bengaluru.

© The Author(s) 2020. This article is licenced under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which permits use, sharing, adaptation, distribution, and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons licence, and indicate if changes were made. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article’s Creative Commons licence unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If the material is not included in the article’s Creative Commons licence and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder. To view a copy of this licence, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/. The Creative Commons Public Domain Dedication waiver (http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/) applies to the data made available in this article unless otherwise stated in a credit line to the data.
Review

The availability of choices empowers users. However, a recent surge of substandard publications has put the medical students into confusion rather than help them make informed choices about their source of knowledge. Unfortunately, even the beautifully written medical books are directed at the wrong readerships. I have come across books that are an exhaustive treatise on a subject with properly cited sources of information but offered as undergraduate textbooks and poorly constructed books sold as postgraduate textbooks. This title, "Medicine @ Your Fingertips" by Dr. Gireesh Kumar KP, is an exception. It is written clearly with the target readership, i.e., residents pursuing postgraduate training in internal medicine. The title was first published in 2010 and is currently in its 3rd edition.

After a glance at the content, it becomes evident that the book is aimed at being a review book, and it does not aspire to replace the more exhaustive textbooks of medicine. The book is divided into 21 chapters covering almost the entire spectrum of internal medicine. A special chapter on antibiotics in renal failure comes in handy during daily practice for both residents and practitioners. As of August 2020, the book is reasonably up-to-date and has incorporated recent guidelines from various professional bodies. The language has been kept simple and multi-color and one column typesetting makes it easier to read and remember. Though I did come across a few typographical errors, I guess for a book of such volume, it is natural to have few. Nonetheless, typographical errors ‘weren’t nonsensical, and hence easy readability ‘isn’t jeopardized.

Residents and postgraduate students following other standard textbooks, such as ‘Harrison’s Principles of Internal Medicine or Oxford Textbook of Medicine, can make an easy transition to this book during the final leg of their certifying exam preparation as the chapters herein are treated similarly as in those classic books. I agree with the author’s claim that the book can also be useful as a preparatory manual for those preparing for the NEET-SS exam. The book succinctly covers the updated treatment protocols and can be a ‘physician’s desk reference.

While I do agree that it is an excellent review book for residents in internal medicine, it does miss out on certain relevant topics. The addition of chapters on geriatrics, palliative care, and emerging and re-emerging infections would complete the spectrum expected of such a title. A slight improvement in the page quality will be highly appreciated by those who tend to paint every page with highlighters.

I would recommend this book to all the academic residents in medicine as a quick review or exam preparatory manual. I strongly feel that this book may find a new readership among the undergraduate students preparing for the National Exit Exam (NEXT) as the proposed draft policies for the said exam call for a more in-depth understanding of clinical subjects, including medicine, when compared to the standards seen in the NEET-PG exam.