

Book Reviews

SAQs, MCQs, EMQs and OSCEs for MRCOG Part 2 – A Comprehensive Guide

Justin C Konje

second edition, Hodder Arnold, London 2009.

The MRCOG Part 2 is an exam which aims to assess a candidate's knowledge of all areas of obstetrics and gynaecology – it succeeds at this and thus a good all round knowledge basis of everything is required. In this book the author has aimed to provide summaries, examples and questions relevant to each part of the examination and this in itself is no mean feat. The opening chapters regarding general advice and tips show that the author has a genuine interest and enthusiasm for his subject matter and the section on 'how to fail the examination' made me laugh – not something that you do much in the run up to this exam.

However daunting the title, the layout of the book means that you can dip in and out of areas you feel that you need to concentrate on instead of trailing through individual sample papers looking for a question on a specific problem. I found the explanations for the essays particularly useful and helped you to formulate an essay plan for similar clinical scenarios.

There is a shorter section dedicated to MCQs and EMQs. In essence the best way to study for this component of the examination is to practice as many Multiple and Extended matching questions that you can lay your hands on. The answers do have explanations – even for the EMQs – so you will be able to review where you went wrong. The section dealing with the explanation of the EMQ's is comprehensive but

it is written as free text and, therefore, can take the candidate a while to find the corresponding explanation. A different layout, perhaps bullet points or the explanation with the questions, would have made this easier for the candidate to compare answer and question quickly.

The area which I feel that this book really excels in is the OSCE section. The layout is easy to understand and, when practicing with a study partner, you can gauge how well you are doing and see where there are points to be gained.

The majority of the book is dedicated to the written part of the MRCOG Part 2, and the book has achieved a comprehensive guide to this component of the examination. A larger section regarding the OSCE would have been helpful for the candidate. The book itself can seem a little daunting as it aims to cover everything. However, I would recommend this text as I feel it was helpful, not only as a study guide but also as a reference text. In summary, this book would benefit any candidate at any time of their examination preparation.

Reviewed by Dr Eleanor MK Jarvie

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Hutchison's Paediatrics

KM Goel, Davendra Gupta

Jaypee Borthers Medical Publishers (P) Ltd, 2009.

This book is based on the paediatric textbook entitled 'Practical Paediatric Problems' written by Professor James H. Hutchison, Professor of Child Health at Glasgow University until 1977. This was a popular textbook in the 1970s used by myself and by medical undergraduates and postgraduates preparing for membership examination in Medical Paediatrics. Hence the title of the book. Having said that, this new paediatric textbook bears no resemblance to the original book, reflecting the advances in paediatric medicine and surgery during the past 30 years. The connection with RHSC Yorkhill is maintained by the many contributors who work or trained at this Hospital. The book was published for sale primarily in the Asian subcontinent and many topics are covered by contributors from that part of the world. The book is available by special order from medical bookshops in the UK.

Most areas in Paediatrics are well covered and I was pleased to read the chapter on paediatric dentistry, an unusual but

useful chapter, which is also well illustrated. I found the chapters on Radiology and Dermatology particularly well illustrated. Most chapters are easy to read with clear tables and figures, flow-diagrams and key learning points, all helping readers to understand and memorise what they have read. Some chapters are more detailed than others.

I consider the book to be a useful addition to any paediatric library both as a basic paediatric textbook and as a reference book for undergraduates and the younger paediatric trainee.

Reviewed by Dr Paul Galea

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Book Reviews

A History of Surgical Paediatrics

Robert Carachi, Dan G. Young and Cenk Buyukunal (eds).
World Scientific Publishing, 2009.

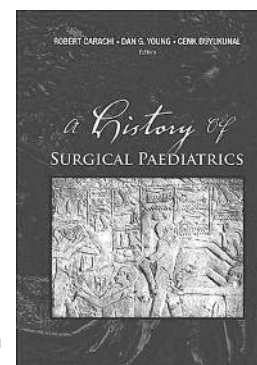
One of the primary aims of the International Society for the History of Paediatric Surgery on its foundation in 1983 was to document the history and development of paediatric surgery. Nearly 25 years later this has been achieved in the publication of *A History of Surgical Paediatrics*. The editors of this work have created an international history by asking friends and colleagues from around the world for their support and contributions.

The book is divided into five sections. Section A provides a background on the development of the historical group in the specialty by its initiator, Jan Molenaar. Section B contains contributions on how surgical paediatrics has developed in individual countries. This is followed, in Section C, by selected biographies. A large number of colleagues were asked to provide lists of individuals whom they felt had made major contributions to the development of the specialty. Those persons most frequently mentioned form the basis of this section. Sections C and D provide brief accounts of surgical paediatric associations and journals. Section E, 'Paediatric Surgical Services,' contains two historical articles (paediatric surgery in 19th century Jerusalem and James Henderson Nicoll – Father of Day Surgery), a review of fetal surgery, a view on minimally invasive surgery and one on modern imaging.

The book is thus, with 80 contributors and running to over 800 pages a compendium of the history of surgical paediatrics and the editors are to be congratulated in their huge task of bringing all the different contributions together into one comprehensive volume.

The development of paediatric surgery as a distinct specialty did not happen until after the Second World War. Ladd and Gross's textbook, *Abdominal Surgery of Infancy and Childhood*, published in 1941 was highly influential and a major contribution to its development. The British Association of Paediatric Surgeons (BAPS) was founded in 1953. The strong international focus of its early years directly led to the founding of the

history club (and hence this book). BAPS was followed by the formation of other associations eg the Canadian Association of Pediatric Surgeons (CAPS) in 1967 and the American Pediatric Surgical Association (APSA) in 1971. Although the emergence of paediatric surgery as a specialty is comparatively recent, many of the accounts from the different countries begin their narrative at a much earlier date. The entry for Turkey – Anatolia provides a description of the works of Sabuncuoğlu, the author of the first paediatric textbook which was presented to the Ottoman Emperor Mehmet the Second in 1460. The accounts from the European countries and the United States generally begin their narratives from the establishment of children's hospitals in the 19th century. The Hôpital des Enfants Malades in Paris, the first independent paediatric hospital in the world, was founded in 1802 and was followed by special paediatric hospitals in places such as St Petersburg (1834), Vienna (1837), Berlin (1844), London (1852) and Philadelphia (1855). The main body of the accounts from the different countries do, however, relate to comparatively recent history and concentrate on the main pioneers and hospitals related to the specialty. In their foreword to the book the editors emphasise the fact that the specialty is rather exceptional in the 'enlarged "family" approach which has made strong bonds between paediatric surgery internationally'. This "family" approach is not only apparent in the actual creation of this volume but also in the individual accounts that contribute to the whole. The strong sense of dedication in those seeking to improve the health and welfare of infants and children throughout the world shines through in this volume.



Reviewed by Carol Parry

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Case Reports (Full reports are available at www.smj.org)

- Presentations of Tuberculosis: a case report.**
SJ Denniston and S Rao
- Hennekam Syndrome Presenting with Abdominal Mass.**
BN Akyildiz, N Urganci, H Kayserili, RO Rosi
- Oesophageal Lipoma Presenting as a Paraoesophageal Omental Hernia in a 68-Year-Old Man A Case Report.**
Y Han, Q Lu, Z Gu, X Wang, X Li
- Superior Mesenteric Artery (Wilkie) Syndrome Complicated by Pneumomediastinum**
G MacKay, CK MacKay and L Walker
- Familial Oesophageal Atresia**
B El-Nabulsi and R Carachi
- Thoracoscopic Splanchnectomy: A New Treatment for Disorders of Motility – A Case Report**
M Steven, N Brindley, J Currie and R Carachi