

BOOK REVIEWS

A Hand book of Skin & STDs for students & practitioners written by Dr Uday Khopkar and published by Bhalani Book Depot is very useful one. It has 164 pages with 84 colour photographs, 52 diagrams and 4 tables. The contents have been divided in two parts. Part II has 22 chapters dealing separately and precisely the skin diseases, sexually transmitted diseases including AIDs and leprosy.

In spite of the small size, the contents are to the point, brief and upto the basic requirement of undergraduate students and busy practitioners. The author has touched most of the important aspects of the commonly prevalent diseases. The language is simple and understandable. Author has done a commendable job by presenting such a vast subject in a precise but simple way and I am sure the book will be very useful for the readers.

Prof S S Pandey

Hand book entitled 'Provoking Thoughts on Leprosy' written by KV Shetty, has 184 pages having 7 chapters dealing with the problems facing leprosy treatment, prejudice against leprosy, guidance to patients etc. The author is not a scientist but he definitely has scientific attitude. The contents of the book are untold stories and reflect more the feeling of the suffering population rather than the treating persons. Thus it gives a glimpse of what "goes on behind the curtain."

Certain ideas written in the book are bold, honest and eye-opener for medical and paramedical men working in the field of leprosy. There is enough material for laymen to counter the prevailing prejudice and stigma

to the disease. The ideas are very interesting and compel one to see the reverse side of the coin and know the problems encountered in the management of this disease.

Prof S S Pandey

Surgery in Dermatology. Harvinder Singh Marwah and Mansukh P Ghalla.

This book covers indepth the instruments, procedures and outcomes of various procedures used in dermatological surgery. Chapters such as 'Designing the office surgical suite' provide valuable information to beginners in the field. The chapter on "Preoperative psychological evaluation" examines an extremely important aspect of patient personality affecting outcome; a facet often missed by most surgeons.

The authors' objective of presenting their experiences on 'Indian' skin are very well fulfilled in valuable chapters such as 'Punch grafting for vitiligo' 'Suction blister technique for vitiligo' and 'Tattooing in vitiligo'. There are large number of photographs which help to give very good visual impressions. In most places the quality of picture is good, however, at places there is room for improvement.

In summary this is a useful book especially for dermatologists of the Indian subcontinent and should be possessed by all those interested in surgery.

Vineet Kaur

1997, Rs 500/-

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Dermatosurgical Procedures by Dr SS Savant

In the cassette, the authour has demonstrated Dermatosurgical procedures in detail. The procedures are informative and recommended for viewing. The steps of procedure have been nicely explained. However the letter quality and colour contrast used are at times poor. Audioquality is also not very good. If we consider it sectionwise :

1. Acne Scar Revision : Author did not introduce the subject but the instrument used and steps of procedure are explained very well.

2. Dermabrasion : Author emphasizes about local anaesthesia with ketamine anaesthesia. He could avoid local anaesthesia. I suppose it is his personal preference. Part preparation and draping of the area need to be explained. One would like to know about the number of sittings required for deep scar.

3. Hair Transplant : The procedure has been very well demonstrated except it looked a bit bloody. It would be nice to have long term followup photograph to impress upon the results.

4. Pinch Grafting for Non Healing Ulcer : It is well established procedure performed by dermatologists and plastic surgeons with good results. The technique has been very well demonstrated with acceptable result.

5. Miniature Punch Grafting for Stable Vitiligo : Miniature puch grafting is being practiced in vitiligo with good results. Author has nicely demonstrated the instrument required and the method used with good cosmesis.

6. Miniature Punch Grafting for Lip : Author has emphasised the extent of lip to be grafted and the technique in detail. The technique is like one used in vitiligo.

The techniques demonstrated are recommended for viewing for those interested in Dermatosurgery.

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Sex, Sexually Transmitted Diseases and AIDS is written by Dr R S Mishra, Head, Department of Skin, STD and Leprosy, Safdarjang Hospital, New Delhi. It has been published by Vigyan Prasar, Technology Bhawan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi. This is a small size pocket book having 152 pages containing 36 illustrations including 15 colour photographs. There are total 9 chapters describing in brief namely, Sexually Transmitted Diseases : An Evergrowing Problem, Anatomy and Physiology of Sex, Genital Ulcer Diseases, Urogenital Discharges, Other STDs, HIV Disease and AIDS, Sexual Problems, Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Laboratory Diagnosis of STDs.

Keeping in view the size of the book, scope of the book and very purpose of the publication, the author has done complete justice by describing in detail the common problems in simple and meaningful language. A new approach to the subject made this volume much more helpful to the health providers in the field of STD. I am sure the medical and paramedical workers, viz. nurses, laboratory technician, medical social worker and even common people will find this volume very useful and can look around for authentic source of information on the subject.

The book will play an important role in clarifying many misconceptions and wrong informations concerning with the sex and sexuality amongst young people by disseminating correct information on the subject of sexual anatomy, physiology and

sexuality, STDs and AIDS.

Prof S S Pandey

An Approach to Dermatosurgery by Subrata Malakar, 75 pages with line diagrams and colour illustrations, hard bound, Rs 300 (India)/\$ 30 (Outside India), Published by A Paul, Calcutta.

Dermatosurgery is used in the management of several skin conditions which are refractory to medical treatment. This book by Dr Malakar is divided into following chapters : Introduction, Guidelines for dermatologic surgery, Skin preparation, Local anaesthesia in cutaneous surgery, Skin biopsy, Hemostasis, Basic excisional surgery, Electrosurgery, Cryosurgery, Laser surgery, Punch graft, Split thickness skin grafting in vitiligo, Micropigmentation surgery, Chemical peeling, Facial acne scars : treatment modalities, Dermabrasion, Hair restoration surgery, Nail surgery, Lasers in dermatosurgery, Evolution of cutaneous surgerys, and Further reading. The chapter on Laser surgery is contributed by Dr Kaushik Lahiri.

The book is a very valuable addition to the collection of books on dermatosurgery. Rather than narrating, it gives a concise and to-the-point information on the above topics, in a style which the author calls 'map-work

approach'. There is tremendous amount of information for the readers. The book has excellent line diagrams, which also have been drawn by the author himself. Besides these, there are nicely printed colour photographs. Printing of the book is also very good and matches that of any international publication. Dr Malakar must be congratulated in being able to bring out an excellent book almost singlehandedly.

A current criticism of medical publications is the overuse of abbreviations. Though they have been properly introduced in Dr Malakar's book on first mention, one might prefer full forms. This would make the book more useful to individuals less familiar with dermatosurgical terminology. Figures could also have been numbered to enable the reader to consult them while reading the text. The beginners might also like more discussion on the management of complications arising out of dermatosurgical procedures. These rather small deficiencies do not in any way belittle Dr Malakar's effort.

The book should be recommended as a primer to anyone interested in learning dermatosurgery. I am sure there are people who would like Dr Malakar to write a bigger text so that they are benefitted from his wealth of experience.

Sanjay Singh
