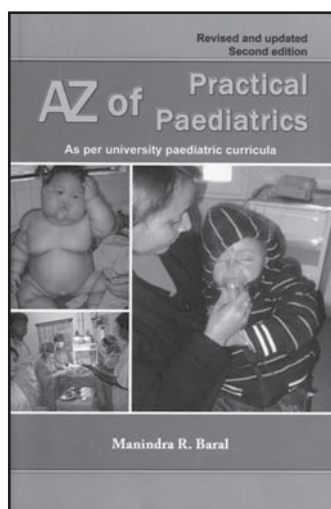


Book Review



A-Z of Practical Paediatrics

Second Edition

By Prof. Dr. Manindra R Baral

Publisher: Educational Publishing House

Jamal, Kathmandu

Price: Rs. 600/-

This is the second edition of what has become a very popular 'Paediatric Aid'. It has been painstakingly revised by the author and has been tailored as per the paediatric curricula of the universities running the MBBS programme in Nepal. Many printing errors have been corrected and there are additional write-ups. Though the book's 'get up' is appealing, a few of the black and white photos do not help much, both because of their small size and the clarity attained. The pictures on the cover are exceptions. Certain selected pictures which depict specific conditions could have been printed on glossy paper and inserted in certain parts of the book. There are still the occasional printing errors. Flow charts which are present in various sections of the book help in the understanding of the topics. The inclusion of tables and a multi coloured system of printing will help the user to elicit information quickly.

Common problems have been included and there are guidelines for topics ranging from anaphylaxis to UTI imaging. The key information are in block and highlighted with blue prints. This is helpful as it contains the differential diagnoses which is useful prior to making the final one. The Annexure of the book also contains appreciable information on various aspects of paediatrics. There is a section on clinical examination

of the various systems which will be useful to the novice. Other topics such as Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) and Evidence Based Medicine (EBM) signify that local and international concerns have also been dealt with. As the information on certain drugs, the values of blood and other body fluids are also included one hopes that the students will refer to these extensively during the course of their training. Because of its compact form it will be useful for quick revision. It is an *aide memoire* for *viva voce*.

Though an A-Z book ought to have 26 Chapters, it has only 19! Perhaps the author will try to rectify this the next time round as the missing letters are very much present in the Index !

There are various WHO Reference Charts at the end of the book. Because of additions the book now has over 500 pages and so naturally there has been a price increase to NC Rs. 600/- per copy. Considering the information that it contains and the knowledge that the student can gain from it, this handy little book which fits into the pocket of the white apron, is still a good bargain.

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