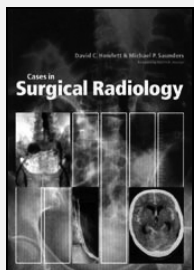


## Surgical snapshots



Cases in surgical radiology. David C Howlett and Michael P Saunders. Oxford: Blackwell Science, 2001 (ix + 220 pp, \$88). ISBN 0 632 05822 6.

THE PRESENTATION OF radiological images is an excellent method for teaching all aspects of medicine to students and advanced trainees. It provides an introduction to the condition under examination and acts as a springboard

for further discussion. *Cases in surgical radiology* is a published version of this commonly utilised teaching technique. It is set out as a series of tutorials constructed by nine consultant radiologists from Eastbourne, Guy's and St Thomas's hospitals in the United Kingdom and Vancouver General Hospital in Canada. Each "tute" consists of 12 diverse surgical cases, including radiographs, computed tomography (CT), ultrasound, contrast studies, occasional magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and nuclear medicine scans, and is set out as a brief clinical history and accompanying radiological study. The reader is asked a series of questions based on these studies. Image interpretation is provided on the following page, together with further imaging and a clinical perspective such as differential diagnosis. Follow-up reading on the subject is facilitated by the inclusion of a literature or textbook reference.

The book works and is fun. The format is simple and concise, and this pocket-size, soft-cover book is easy to whip out and read when a spare moment arises. It is not a comprehensive text for the on-call surgical or radiology registrar, although it does have a reasonable index allowing for review of a specific pathological condition. My only complaints are that the contributors have delved a little too deeply into their teaching files, producing one or two cases that are quite esoteric, and that photographic reproduction, especially for the abdominal radiographs, is not always optimal.

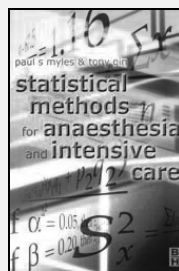
I have no hesitation in recommending this book for a medical library catering to students or surgical trainees. Given that it is reasonably cheap, it would also be a good buy for individuals. In summary the concept is excellent,

the format well executed and the cases instructive. It is a useful resource for the teaching of surgery through the interpretation of radiological studies.

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## Statistical gem



Statistical methods for anaesthesia and intensive care. Paul Myles and Tony Gin. Oxford: Butterworth-Heinemann, 2000 (viii + 152 pp, \$68.75). ISBN 0 7506 4065 0.

FOR SOME TIME I have pondered on how a statistician chooses one method of analysis over another for a research project. One time it's the Student's  $t$  test and the next it's ANOVA. Words such as *parametric* and *non-parametric* have always sounded quite "scientific", but had no real meaning in my limited understanding of research methods. This book has changed all that. I can now recite definitions for confidence intervals, relative risks and odds ratios, but, more importantly, I can make more sense of the research I am trying to use to improve health outcomes for my patients.

Thirteen clear and concise chapters demystify how medical research data are described and analysed. Simple, worked examples illustrate the principles elegantly and effortlessly. Just a couple of hours will have you well on the way to understanding statistical methods used in health research. No longer will you have to say to yourself "I should know that" — you will "know that". This would be a good book to consider using for Continuing Medical Education, Maintenance of Professional Standards and for all doctors in training.

Why keep this little gem just for the intensivist and anaesthetist? It's fantastic!

**Sue Inglis**

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Alwyn Private Hospital  
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