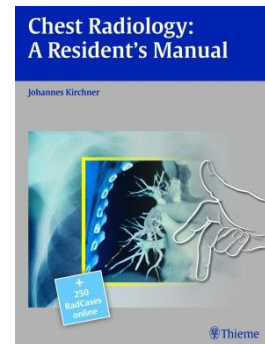


Chest Radiology: A Resident's Manual

Author(s): Kirchner
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This book review combines the assessments of a first year radiology registrar and consultant chest radiologist.

Chest Radiology: A Resident's Manual is an excellent book providing a basic knowledge of chest radiograph/CT interpretation and intrathoracic pathology. The book is presented in a very reader friendly format with text and line diagrams on the left hand page and corresponding radiology images on the right. The author explains basic concepts in a simple and logical manner. A minor criticism involves some terms that are not part of the English radiological lexicon such as "fool's cap bell" to describe aspergilloma and "butterfly" instead of bat's wing.

Good schematic diagrams are used for easy understanding of basic radiological signs that help the reader correlate with the radiological images. The chapters are short yet comprehensive and provide a good foundation in the most important aspects. Each topic has been complemented with numerous high-quality well-illustrated plain radiographs and CT images.

Free online access to 250 important thoracic imaging cases is included with the book, which is a real bonus.

The author's approach on false positive and false negatives in diagnosis of lung cancer, which pose a dilemma to junior radiologists in the interpretation of chest radiographs, is particularly good. Case studies are placed at the end of each chapter for self-assessment underpinning the preceding text and images.

By its nature this book cannot claim to be comprehensive and it is therefore understandable that not all topics can be covered. However, a significant criticism of this book is the omission of key

chapters to cover mediastinal masses, pulmonary embolic disease, trauma and lines and tubes. However, pneumonia, emphysema and bronchitis are particularly well covered. The online cases do plug these gaps to an extent but are a minor compensation for the lack of structured chapters in the book itself. The omission of references for further detailed reading of topics is another major setback given that the book is not comprehensive.

In summary, the book is very useful and easy to understand for the topics included but cannot be regarded as a definitive 'resident's manual' because of its significant omissions.