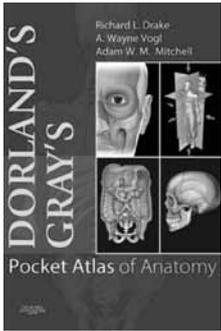


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Dorland's/Gray's Pocket Atlas of Anatomy

Drake RL, Vogl AW and Mitchell AWM.

Publisher: Churchill Livingstone/Elsevier

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NZRRP: \$65.00

Don't you just dread having to take your huge Gray's anatomy to the anatomy labs? Not only is the large size inconvenient, but the book's weight is just intolerable. What about surgical rounds? Do you sometimes wish you can bring your textbook/Atlas with you, but can't because

of the size? If that sounds like you, then your prayers have been answered. "Dorland's/Gray's Pocket Atlas of Anatomy" combines the beautiful and clear illustrations from the latest editions of 'Gray's Anatomy for students' and the original 'Gray's anatomy' and 'Gray's Atlas of Anatomy' with the extensive anatomical definitions from 'Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary' in one convenient handbook about the size of your Oxford handbooks and with similar thickness too, making it the most convenient reference for anatomy when you're out there in the dissection room or on the wards.

The book's layout is best likened to the "Flash-card" Style, where one side of the card has the anatomical illustration with numbers replacing labels, and the other side containing the key to these numbers and a small paragraph on what each structure is. Similarly, Dorland's/Gray's Pocket Atlas is organized in a two-page fashion, where the right page contains one or more anatomical illustrations with numbers replacing labels, and the left page contains the anatomical structure representing each number and a brief but succinct definition. If, for example, you are looking at a muscle, the definition would include its name, origin, insertion, innervation and action. For a nerve, the definition will include the modality (pure sensory, pure motor or mixed), its parent nerve and the area it supplies and the

muscles it innervates. For arteries and veins the definition will include origin (or destination for veins), branches and the area supplied/drained by it. So the left page makes for a very juicy summary of what you need to know on the spot, while the right page presents a number of clear illustrations (mostly from Gray's anatomy for students, with a few from Gray's anatomy) compressed to fit into the A3-size pages of the book.

The book is divided into eight chapters, addressing human anatomy by region. Chapter One is a general introduction and is mainly set out to give you the definitions of basic anatomical terms and some of the Latin terms that get repeated often, such as fossa, cavity, retinaculum, eminence etc. The remaining eight chapters are in identical order to Gray's Anatomy for Students, starting with the Back and ending with the Head & Neck. The index is well-organised and even resolves that annoying habit of Gray's of listing all the arteries under the name 'Artery'. If you are looking up a specific artery, you can go directly to the letter its name starts with and find it. Oh, and did I mention that there is a mini-CD that comes with the book which contains Dorland's spell Checker, helping you get the correct spelling whenever you use Word to write anatomical and medical terms?

The book has a few short-comings, which are understandable given that it is a Pocket Atlas. Sometimes they cram too many pictures into one page leading to a crowded page and diagrams that are too small. You may have to squint to see the smaller structures on these diagrams. The book is very deficient when it comes to Brain anatomy, although the arterial supply, meninges and cranial nerves are adequately covered. You should also be aware that the book does have a printing error in pages 402-3 with the labels not quite matching the numbers; however, there are hardly any books around that have no mistakes at all. Finally, the book is quite deficient when it comes to surface anatomy, so don't expect to find all of Gray's clinical anatomy section in there. Having said that, every now and then you may find a real-life picture to illustrate some surface anatomy. Of course, you won't find any of those clinical cases or clinical anatomy notes you see in Gray's Anatomy, but that is normal for an Atlas of anatomy.

In conclusion, I think this book is quite an achievement, because in combining two of the most famous books around, it has an extensive breadth of coverage of regional anatomy whilst retaining its small size. I recommend this book to all medical students and all doctors, no exceptions. And with a price of \$65.00 only, you know it's worth it!

