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Core Clinical Cases

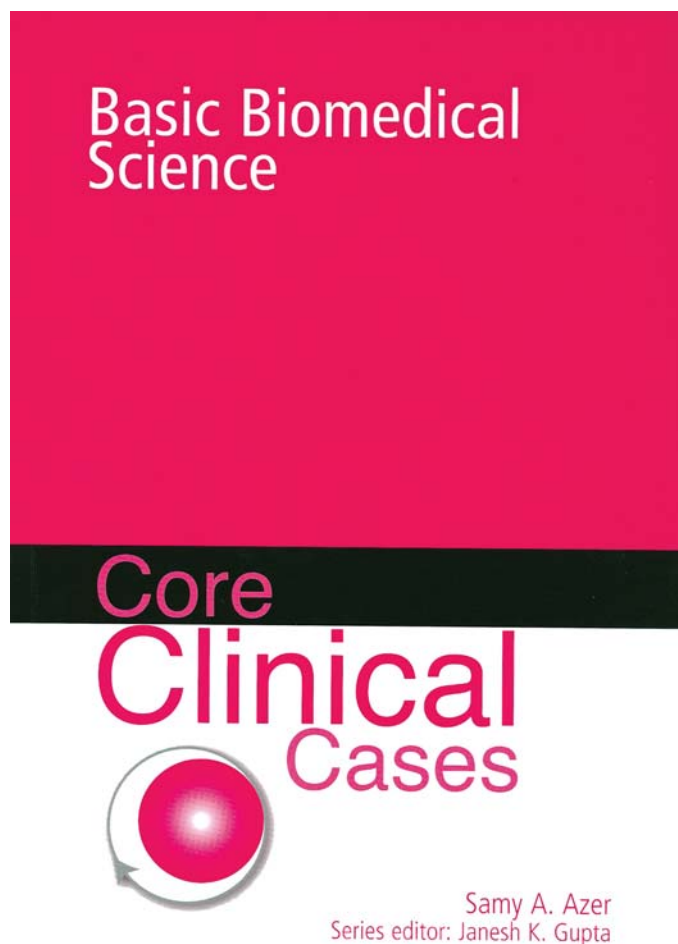
Series Editor: Janesh K. Gupta

As advancements are being made in the field of Medicine, so are the methods used to educate Medical Students. Throughout the UK, North America, Australia, New Zealand, South East Asia and the Middle East, medical curricula are increasingly incorporating the use of Problem-Based Learning in which students are required to apply knowledge gleaned from lectures and standard textbooks and apply them in a theoretical clinical scenario. With most textbooks being specifically for different areas of clinical medicine i.e. Pathology, Anatomy, Biochemistry, Pharmacology etc, it has become increasingly challenging for the medical student to locate and collate information pertaining to a specific disease. As such, with the publication of this series of books, the work of searching through endless pages of irrelevant data is eliminated and the required knowledge and information condensed in a concise and easy to use book.

In this issue, two books in the series are reviewed. Both have a similar layout and demonstrate consistency in the way information is presented to the reader. What is really useful to the reader is a small series of questions presented before each main chapter which gives the reader an opportunity to visualize the logical progression of the process of diagnosis and understand why one does not dive straight into applying for blood tests or MRIs and instead starts with the age-old approach of an accurate patient history being taken first. Each chapter covers a range of three to four cases which at first may seem similar in symptoms. The cases are explained in parallel to one another and the amount of information about the patient given to the reader in a gradual pattern starting with the history and progressing to the more challenging laboratory test or imaging. There is also a comprehensive explanation of the biomedical science behind the disease that enhances the reader's understanding of the system being discussed before further discussing the case. This enables the reader to compare and contrast the differences between the cases making for more interesting learning. However, this layout makes it difficult for the reader to just choose to follow one case, requiring the reader to constantly flip back and forth between sections in the chapter.

The information regarding each case is presented in an easy to read format with a large chunk of information being presented in point form. Besides diagnosis, the books also provide the clinical treatments and accompanying explanation for the chosen treatment. Each case in each chapter is given a short introduction and is then followed up by blood test results, patient history, and then a series of questions on the diagnostic procedure followed by several pages of key points on the biomedical science of the system being discussed.

Despite the series being targeted towards medical students and their new teaching curriculum, it is possible that the series be also used by more senior medical students in their clinical years as a revision tool and possibly as a study tool too. The series currently has four books, with two more being published soon.



[Core Clinical Cases in Basic Biomedical Science](#)

[Core Clinical Cases in Obstetric and Gynaecology 2nd Edition](#)

[Core Clinical Cases in Paediatrics](#)

[Core Clinical Cases in Psychiatry](#)

Coming soon:

[Core Clinical Cases in the Medical and Surgical Specialties](#)

[Core Clinical Cases in Medicine and Surgery](#)

Core Clinical Cases in Basic Biomedical Science

Samy A. Azer, NZ\$55.00

This book provides a highly structured case history text covering each of the important components of the undergraduate biomedical sciences, in the form of 45 clinical scenarios. Each scenario is followed by eight to ten questions and answers with detailed feedback. The book focuses on the following topics, Biliary system and pancreas, Liver, Gastrointestinal system, Nutrition and endocrine pancreas, Cardiovascular system, Respiratory system, Renal system, Endocrine system, Reproductive system, Locomotor system, Haematopoietic system, Autonomic nervous system, Central nervous system, Cranial nerves and Immune system. As consistent with the series, the book displays information in a succinct manner and encourages lateral thinking on behalf of the student by promoting the idea of differential diagnoses. At the end of each chapter is also a small gem of a page in which the author provides students with a list of references of further reading material on the topic, if so desired.

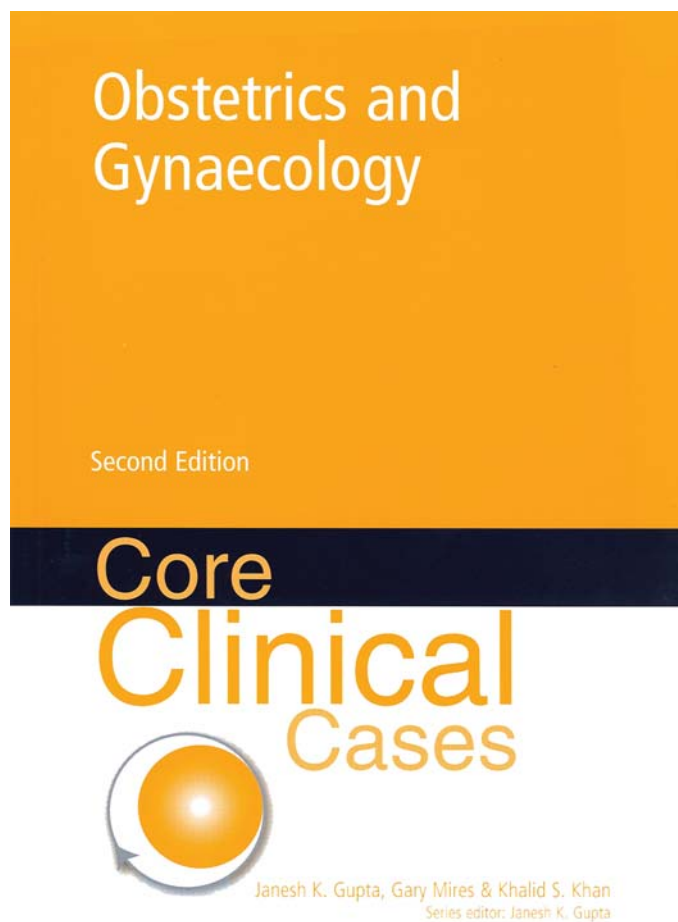
Unfortunately, in an attempt to cover such a broad range of topics, the book falls short of being the definitive guide for medical students in their clinical years. However, it must be noted again that this series is targeted towards pre-clinical year students and therefore, is possibly sufficient. What is of value though to clinical year students is the thought process that the book tries to promote in investigating any disease, starting from taking a good patient history to the more complex laboratory tests.

This book can be considered a definite must-have for students yet to begin their clinical years.

Core Clinical Cases in Obstetrics and Gynaecology 2nd Edition
Janesh K. Gupta, Gary Mires and Khalid S. Khan, NZ\$45.00

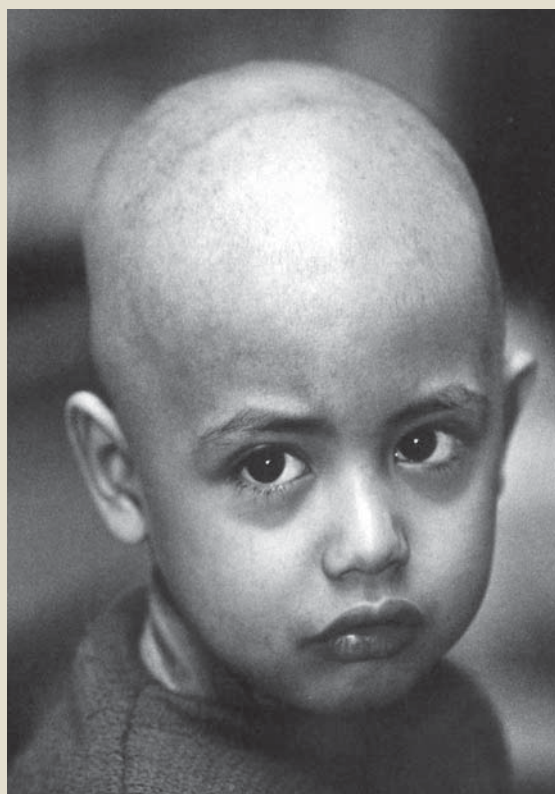
This is the second book in the series and begins the tone of the remaining five books as it delves into the specific fields of Medicine. Key concepts and important information are highlighted and the reader-friendly layout reflects exactly the type of question you will encounter, making the perfect revision aid for all types of case-based examination. The book covers the following topics in the field of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Early pregnancy problems, Pregnancy dating and foetal growth, Late pregnancy problems, Labour, Medical disorders of pregnancy, Puerperium, Abnormal uterine bleeding, Amenorrhoea and menopause, Incontinence and prolapse, Neoplasia, Discharge and pain, Infertility and Fertility control.

With the advent of a more rounded approach to Medicine in terms of attitudes to disease and illness, medical schools are moving away from the Biomedical approach to the Biopsychosocial approach. Keeping in line with this new approach to Medicine, the book provides additional information on cases that might require informed consent from the patient and how it should be presented to them. Readers may find it disappointing as to the depth at which this aspect is explored in the book, but to be fair to the authors and the series editor, this book is intended mainly to aid the medical student in learning about the diagnostic and



investigative process. A full ethical discussion on patient rights would be excessive and not in line with the main intention of the series.

It is as it is intended to be, a tool for the medical student to learn better in the new problem-based curriculum.



A boy with leukemia (in the leukemia ward of Mansour Teaching Children's Hospital, Baghdad, Dec. 1999). This image is from an exhibition of black and white photographs that will be shown at New Zealand medical libraries that highlight the medical effects of using depleted uranium in warfare.

A Different Nuclear War: Children of the Gulf War

Photos and text by Takashi Morizumi.

Edited and published by the Global Association for Banning Depleted Uranium Weapons 2002.

For more information about the photographer:

www.savewarchildren.org/morizumi.html

RELATED LINKS

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War
(Recipient of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize)

www.ippnw-students.org

... and for more information concerning the health impacts of using depleted uranium

www.disarmsecure.org