

# Clinical Skills

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Hassan Alduhailib is an Auckland-based 5th year medical student with an interest in education. He looks to pursue a surgical career.

Learning clinical skills can be overwhelming. It makes the transition from a pre-clinical medical student to a clinical medical student that much more daunting. Reading *Clinical Skills* by T.A Roper, will definitely help ease the transition and help students acquire clinical skills not only to pass the OSCEs but also to become a distinctly hands-on physician.

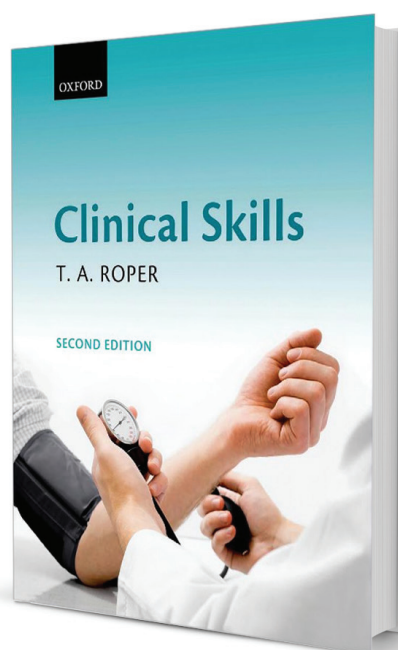
*Clinical Skills* by T.A. Roper, is a clear and reader-friendly book. It provides a systematic approach to diagnosis; covering history taking and examination. Supported by easy-to-interpret diagrams, tables, cartoons and pictures. It covers all of the systems with additional chapters on how to interpret x-rays and spot diagnosis. In its 2nd edition, chapters on paediatrics examination and genitourinary examination have been added.

*Clinical Skills* provides a concise and straight to the point approach; organised under simple headings. For example, there are headings for each examination finding (e.g. neck lump, murmur): What is it?; Significance; Causes; and How to examine. With similar heading in the history taking section, describing which questions to ask for each symptom. The material in the book is then illustrated in exemplar cases with discussion throughout each chapter.

At the end of each chapter, there are assessment questions that are ranked in terms of importance. Moreover, it discusses common problems faced by students during examinations, with suggested solutions.

Compared to Talley and O'Connor's *Clinical Examination*, it is cheaper at \$91.21 NZD while Talley's is priced at \$136 NZD (cited: Books Depository). Furthermore, it's written with a simpler and easier to follow style than Talley and O'Connor.

In conclusion, *Clinical Skills* by T.A. Roper is an affordable book, written with wit and clarity that will serve as a survival guide for medical students. It takes next to no time to read and will help you in your OSCEs and on the ward.



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