

BOOK REVIEW

Pediatric Orthopedics: A System of Decision-Making

Edited by B. Joseph, S. Nayagam, R. Loder, I. Torode;
Hodder-Arnold ISBN 978-0-340-88945-9.

With new orthopedic textbooks filling up medical bookstores by the dozens each year, the question that immediately comes to mind is; 'Is this yet *another* orthopedic textbook?'. That notion is quickly dismissed the moment one begins to browse *A System of Decision-Making*.

Lynn Staheli commences his foreward with outright recommendations that this book target 'those with limited experience'. With our Malaysian population served by only a handful of paediatric orthopedic Surgeons, the vast majority of paediatric cases are obviously managed by 'those with little experience'. Suffice it to say that if you see the occasional child in your practice, this book needs to be in your bookshelf, if not on your consultation table.

The painstaking effort in compiling the work of four world-renowned experts from three continents is itself highly commendable. Although from different continents and faced with a wide variety of pathologies, there is a definite unifying style in their work. One may seamlessly move from one chapter to another without realizing that it is authored by different persons.

The chapters are uniquely set to cover almost the whole gamut of pediatric orthopedic conditions. The presentation style is crisp and concise, with clear, self explanatory illustrations (mostly drawn by B Joseph himself), that are neither distracting nor simplistic.

Little time is wasted on long, dry introductions and classifications; instead the chapters quickly zoom into the clinical scenarios and real everyday permutations of problems and, most importantly, the appropriate management. Though each chapter appears brief, they are by all means exhaustive in their coverage of each respective clinical condition.

I would recommend *A System of Decision-Making* to all orthopedic surgeons, perhaps even to the senior trainee. Whilst it will undoubtedly be appreciated by 'those with limited experience' (ie most of us), the pediatric orthopedic surgeon would find this book to be of special help to him/her.

Robert Penafort