

Book Review

Emergencies in Urology
Authors: M. Hohenfellner and RA Santucci
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It was a pleasure to read through this book “Emergencies in Urology” by M Hohenfellner and R Santucci. I realised that this book has huge application in Africa as it covers a spread of Urological emergencies and emergent conditions rarely (if ever) contained in one book, but not rarely seen on our continent. One of the authors (Santucci) has close ties with Africa via involvement in Mozambique and South Africa and I would like to believe that this had some influence on the topics covered in this book. The book contains the presentation, diagnoses and treatment of common conditions e.g. urosepsis, peno-scrotal emergencies, Fournier’s gangrene, trauma and a range of well thought off less common emergencies e.g. failure of urinary drainage from upper and lower tract, autonomic dysreflexia, paraneoplastic syndromes including hypercalcaemic crisis and neutropenia and renal transplantation. Many pictures (312) and tables (161) help to convey the knowledge contained in the book. A helpful chapter in times of need may be “Open salvage surgery” to address problems peri-operatively e.g. bowel obstruction, dehiscence and abdominal compartment syndrome. They contracted some top Africans (e.g. Ghoneim, Shokeir and Heyns), Americans (e.g. McAninch, Jordan, Skinner and Lue), Europeans (e.g. Gil-Vernet, Studer, Mundy and Chapple) to contribute out of their wealth of experience in an easy to read and clear writing style. Some of the highlights of the book appear towards the end where a selection of case reports is supplied. One of these is about a colleague gynaecologist whose examination chair broke as he sat down on it to cause the central metal rod of the chair to penetrate the rectum as well as the bladder! You have to read the book to find out how this emergency was handled, but the incident gave a whole new meaning to the word “Urogynaecology” so fondly used by gynaecologists! My only criticism of this book is the chapter on anaesthesia which is written in much detail, possibly not for the Urologist or Urology resident. Problematic Urology emergencies from around the globe may be discussed with the authors in a website discussion at www.emergencies-in-urology.com. I suggest that this book would be a useful tool for any Urology/General Surgery (dealing with Urology) department in Africa. The residents who own a copy would clearly have the edge when things turn sour in the middle of the night as we know Urology emergencies can do!