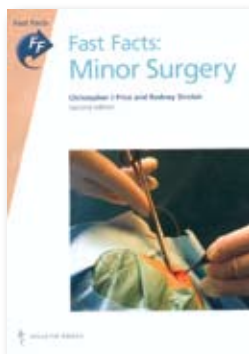


**Fast Facts: Minor Surgery  
2nd edition**

Christopher J Price, Rodney Sinclair  
Oxford: Health Press, 2008  
ISBN 978 1 90373 401 8, \$28.00



■ **This small surgical primer is one in the 70 'Fast Facts' medical reference series. It focuses on the diagnosis and surgical treatment of skin lesions in the primary care setting.**

The most useful chapter in this book is on lesion identification and management. This chapter outlines a range of the least invasive and most practical management techniques. More evidence based references or authoritative guidelines would have been helpful.

There are very handy chapters on operative set up and equipment, treatment planning, avoiding complications and 'examining your practice'. These chapters include sensible advice for novice surgeons.

The chapter on surgical procedures is confined to skin and nail surgery and contains useful tips and diagrams on a range of techniques.

I would recommend this relatively inexpensive book for hospital residents, general practice registrars and novice GPs. It is also a valuable resource for medical educators and teachers of medical students.

Nick Cooling  
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**Paediatric Handbook  
8th edition**

Kate Thomson, Dean Tey, Michael Marks  
Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009  
ISBN 978 1 4057 400 8, \$69.95



■ **This book's friendly cartoon cover and pocket size has always reminded me of 'The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy', with its encouraging 'don't panic' message flashing on the front. The Paediatric Handbook has been a well thumbed companion of hospital residency – it is also a useful friend in general practice. How much intercondylar separation is acceptable in a toddler with bow legs? What about a baby with a squint at their 6 week check?**

While the eighth edition requires a slightly larger pocket at 640 pages, there are new chapters on sleep, continence, obesity and slow weight gain (failure to thrive). The chapters on renal conditions, pain management, and immigrant health have been revised. Website references have been included in this new edition, and are marked by a large '@' symbol in the text margin. For example, there is a website reference for parents' evaluation of developmental status, translated health information sheets on immunisations, and a summary of inborn errors of metabolism. In addition to the very useful Royal Children's Hospital website ([www.rch.org.au](http://www.rch.org.au)), the handbook is now supported by the supplementary website '[www.rchhandbook.org](http://www.rchhandbook.org)'.

This book contains a resuscitation guide inside the front cover and the first chapter covers medical emergencies. Another chapter contains common procedures and is accompanied by good illustrations. The appendices have growth charts and an extensive pharmacopoeia with antimicrobial guidelines and the Australian Immunisation Schedule. The text is succinct with clear management guidelines. There are frequent summary tables and flow diagrams eg. 'how to assess good breastfeeding', and 'management algorithm for nocturnal enuresis'. The index is easy to use.

In some areas there is a focus on inpatient management (eg. nutrition, fluid and electrolyte therapy), but this little book also contains a wealth of useful information for the primary care of children. The well presented summarised information means that you can generally pick it up during a consultation and find the answer to your question.

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