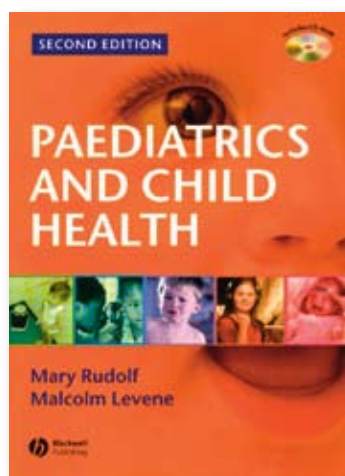


**Paediatrics and Child Health
2nd edition**

Mary Rudolf, Malcolm Levene
Blackwell Publishing, 2006
ISBN 878 1 4051 2661 8, \$32.50



Paediatrics and Child Health is a valuable addition to the bookshelves of general practitioners. It provides up-to-date information on common medical conditions encountered in paediatric practice, despite having been written primarily as a textbook for medical students.

The approach is different to the traditional presentation of systems such as respiratory and cardiovascular. The authors have very successfully used a 'tourist guide' approach, including use of bright colours for contrast and impact. The starting point is the child's symptom or presenting problem, with each chapter opening with a 'mind map'. While this may appear rather simplistic to experienced GPs, it does achieve the aim of identifying the medical conditions which need to be learnt and also the conditions which should not be missed.

There are many tables, clinical boxes detailing key points or worrying features to check for, clues to differential diagnoses, and boxes that illustrate 'medical conditions at a glance'. The photographs and illustrations succinctly add significantly to the knowledge imparted.

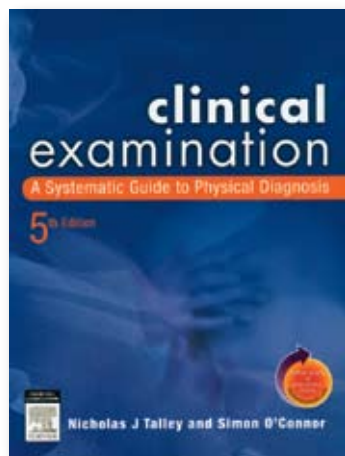
I found that *Paediatrics and Child Health* did lack some detail, particularly in child development and cardiovascular conditions of childhood and infancy. However, as a starting point in working out a diagnosis, or in filling those 'mental blanks' we encounter on a busy day in general practice, and indeed in teaching medical students in our practice, the book would be frequently well used.

This is not a comprehensive paediatric textbook, but a valuable resource for the busy GP, with a successful innovative approach in presentation, which I will continue to enjoy using.

Delma Mullins
Muswellbrook, NSW

**Clinical examination
A Systematic Guide to Physical Diagnosis
5th edition**

Nicholas J Talley, Simon O'Connor
Elsevier, 2006
ISBN 0729537625, \$74.95



The 5th edition of this perennial favourite comes not only with access to a dedicated website but also an attached CD-ROM. The book's layout is vastly improved compared to the previous edition. It also contains more photographs, the majority of which are now in colour. They are generally of excellent quality and highly useful for study purposes.

The good signs guides, found throughout the book, are useful. However, the positive and negative likelihood ratios given in number values are not all that helpful, particularly as there is no glossary of the abbreviations used throughout the book. These likelihood ratios are more distracting than clinically useful.

The website is certainly very helpful and offers a good database of questions and case studies. The CD-ROM contains excellent material. Examiners shown on the CD-ROM however, are not always understandable and are spoken over at times by other people.

Apart from these few identified areas of weakness, 'Talley and O'Connor' remains the gold standard clinical examination book for medical students and health professionals within Australia. I recommend it highly to any health professional who wants to learn or review a systematic and professional clinical examination.

Heinz Tilenius
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