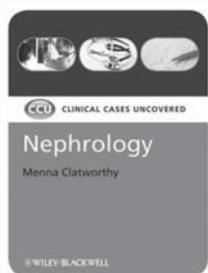


Book Review



Reviewed by: Barbara Harvie, Nurse Practitioner (Chronic Kidney Disease), Canberra Hospital.

Nephrology: Clinical Cases Uncovered.

Author: Menna Clatworthy Oxford. Wiley Blackwell. 273 pages. Paperback.

ISBN: 97814051898903.

This new title in the successful Clinical Cases Uncovered series is suitable for basic trainees, experienced nephrology nurses, those undertaking nephrology courses and clinical vivas. The primary objective of this text is to introduce kidney disease to an audience ranging from medical students to advanced nephrology nurses and registrars. The objective has been achieved through the use of clear and succinct language supported by diagrams and images, using a practical approach to diagnose and manage kidney disease. The book is well written and logical in approach, leading the reader from an introduction to kidney disease to a comprehensive patient approach and clinical overview. A full complement of case studies follows, from simple to highly complex cases which should challenge all interested health professionals. Case studies vary from acute kidney injury to end stage kidney disease, including dialysis and transplantation and are well developed and easy to follow, and should intrigue even the more experienced nurses. Each case is completed with a set of key points. The effectiveness of learning is tested through the use of multiple choice questions (MCQ), extended matching questions (EMQ) and self-assessment questions (SAQ) and answers.

As a British text, the 'British National Formulary' was evident, and so for me it reduced the usefulness of the medications listed. Generic names were consistent throughout. In future editions, I would like to see references to international formulary websites. From a layout perspective, the titles were well set out. I was pleased to see the abbreviations defined early in the text, and also a page describing the accepted ranges for investigations. At times however, I found it awkward to link the tables and figures within the text. I noticed a few typographical mistakes on occasions (however, this is my forte).

As CKD is my passion, I searched for discussion about MDRD which rated lower than Cockcroft-Gault. MDRD didn't even rate a mention in the index. I was also surprised by the absence of the internationally accepted stages of CKD table. The case study emphasis was on acute kidney problems, which has the potential to attract the added interest of both hospital and GP registrars. Conservative management in kidney disease was not addressed.

As I read, I challenged myself to identify the causes of kidney disease at an early stage. This led me to extend my reading beyond the capacity of this text. The illustrations were excellent, with

appropriate use of photos and diagrams throughout. In exploring the case studies, I found the explanations clear and concise, leading from detection to management of individual patient cases. Occasional anecdotes provide insight into historical perspectives, which lighten this otherwise very practical text. Greenberg's (2009) Primer of Kidney Diseases is a substantially larger (600 page), and therefore more comprehensive text.

The concept of using self-assessment questions is valuable, and I would not be surprised to view them in future nursing nephrology examinations. The explanations provided in the answers were clear and non-ambiguous.

I recommend the inclusion of this text as a resource for both personal and hospital libraries.

The author, Menna Clatworthy, is a University Lecturer in Renal Medicine and Honorary Consultant Nephrologist at the University of Cambridge and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge UK. In 2005, she was the Medical Research Society Young Investigator of the Year, and also won the British Renal Association AEG Raine Award. She has published widely in both research and clinical nephrology journals. Her articles range from immunosuppression and sirolimus to cytomegalovirus management.