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## Book Review: Chest X-Ray – A Survival Guide by Gerald de Lacey MA FRCR, Simon Morley FRCR and Laurence Berman MB BS FRCP FRCR

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### REVIEW

Do you ever gaze in to the shadowy depths of the chest x-ray and wish you could make more sense of it? Well this might be your answer. Written by radiologists who run the renowned 'Red Dot' courses, this excellent pocket guide is an invaluable aid to clinicians of any level, including trainee radiologists.

This compact 352 page book priced at £31.99 is a companion to the Accident and Emergency Radiology Survival Guide. It is split into two sections: Core knowledge and Clinical Problems.

In the core knowledge section, each chapter focuses on a single aspect of the chest x-ray (CXR). Relevant anatomy and pathology is clearly and succinctly explained in each chapter providing the reader with a brief but thorough foundation to interpret images. Schematic diagrams and high quality images are used to convey features described in the text, and these are particularly useful when more tricky aspects of radiology are encountered. At times the clarity of the images is compromised by their size, but this is the inevitable pitfall of a pocket sized radiology book. The chapter devoted to the much less commonly requested lateral CXR outlines areas of clinical practice where it would be of most use and those where perhaps it is underutilised. There is a brief chapter on ITU CXRs which gives valuable insight into the normal positioning of various tubes and drains. The radiologist's toolbox is a very helpful collection of techniques used for interpretation and provides a good summary as well as some useful inside knowledge, although non-radiological doctors may find it a little too specific. With extra chapters on paediatric and neonatal CXRs, this really is a very comprehensive volume.

The second section covers a range of clinical problems (16 in total), for example, Dyspnoea: What To Look For, or Analysis: Solitary Pulmonary Nodules. These are addressed by considering a list of differential diagnoses (usually in tables) and the radiological signs they may demonstrate. A systematic step-wise guide to go through a CXR in each scenario is often provided.

The strengths of this book include its excellent illustrations, high quality CXR images, discussion which explains the

underlying pathology and explores the possible differentials in each scenario and a useful radiologist's toolbox. One limitation of the book is that it does not provide a section to test yourself. However, it provides a complete reference with a good index, so its use in conjunction with clinical practice or routine reporting is very applicable.

Whether you want speedy guidance, golden rules, or a systematic detailed explanation and approach to interpreting the CXR, we highly recommend the chest x-ray survival guide.