

Urological Emergencies

in Hospital Medicine

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edited by

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Hiten R Patel and Inderbir S Gill



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Foreword

The correct and expeditious management of urological emergencies is essential. Delay in the delivery of treatment can result in prolonged and significant pain, the loss of a testicle, permanent impotence, or even death.

The information required to manage these conditions lies buried in some of the larger urological texts, where management plans can often only be worked out after sifting through pages of text and references. By contrast, this book provides a concise yet comprehensive account of these conditions. The text is clearly written, with easy to follow flow diagrams and a key points box at the end of each chapter. The breadth of coverage is also impressive, with chapters on the rarely covered emergencies seen postoperatively, in neuro-urology, nephro-urology, uro-radiology and pregnancy.

The authors are to be congratulated for bringing together some of the country's best known authorities, who have many years' experience in their sub-specialist fields. Publication of the book comes at a time when there is diminishing coverage of urology in the medical school curriculum, and decreasing exposure of some of the rarer urological emergencies during surgical and urological training. It will be of great help to all of the professionals who manage these patients, from general practitioners and accident and emergency doctors to consultant urologists, and is a must for anyone sitting urological examinations.

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Introduction

Urological emergencies form a significant proportion of all acute medical and surgical admissions and clinicians dealing with them may or may not have had previous specialist training or knowledge of urology. Furthermore, with most doctors and medical students now having less and less exposure to this important specialty (especially in the UK), a concise and up-to-date guide to the diagnosis and management of urological emergencies in hospital medicine was required.

We have produced this book with day-to-day practice in mind, and have encouraged the reader to adopt a simple and practical approach to all urological emergencies, with an emphasis on basic principles of emergency management, a multi-disciplinary approach (involving nursing staff, radiologists, intensive care clinicians and emergency staff) and application of basic principles of urological practice. We hope it will provide an invaluable source of information and guidance in this area of medicine.

Chapters have been written by specialists in their particular field, and heavily influenced by trainee co-authors, so that the text will also be of considerable interest to all medical students, junior doctors, specialist registrars and residents, specialist nurses, emergency doctors and theatre nurses. We feel that this approach will allow any clinician, without previous knowledge of urology, to be able to make an accurate diagnosis and have a treatment plan for all urological emergencies.

Each chapter has also been written with the specialist UK urological trainee in mind, especially as urological emergencies will be making up one-eighth of the new FRCS(Urol) final examination (including a 20 minute viva table). Similarly, in the US, residents will use this book to provide them with academic and practical knowledge to pass the qualifying exam of the American Board of Urology. We anticipate that this text will become an essential part of all urology trainees' and residents' reading portfolio.

Finally, it is expected that this book will supplement the new Practical Skills in Urological Emergencies course, which has been recently organised and successfully introduced in the UK by the editors.

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