Compact, informative O&G book by local doctor


"For the busy clinicians in wards and outpatient clinics, time is of the essence. I felt that a simple reference book on diagnosis and management in gynecology may be useful," says Dr. Lee Say Fatt, when asked what inspired him to write the book. The book is compact, yet informative, and allows busy clinicians to prepare their patients and help them resolve their gynecological problems, without having to refer to heavy tomes.

"There are many good reference textbooks out there that contain up-to-date information on various diseases and treatment protocols. However, most of these books are bulky and unsuitable for quick reading in the clinic," says Lee. The idea of his book was to make it easy to refer to various gynecological topics at a glance. To this end, topics are written in note form, with considerable emphasis on clinical algorithms, bulleted lists and flowcharts. There is also a treatment summary at the end of each chapter.

"As in any field of medicine, it is almost impossible to remember all the facts and treatment protocols needed to treat patients at point-of-care, more so if you are running a very busy outpatient clinic. The benefit of the summary approach is that readers will be able to find relevant information quickly and remember it easier without the need to read through the entire chapter."

Lee stresses that the book is not meant to be the "final word in treatment," but has just enough facts to enable diagnosis and treatment for common gynecological diseases. In fact, users of the book should have a basic knowledge of gynecology.

Personal experiences

The book, published by University Malaya Press Kuala Lumpur, is the product of 2 years of writing. Then there was a 6-month period from submission to final printing, as the draft had to undergo revisions and corrections. However, it can be said that the book was in "production" several years before that as it is a result of Lee’s many years of experience in gynecological practice. The book is drawn from his notes on treating patients, his reading, teaching rounds with medical students and registrars; and, discussions with colleagues – all of which was stored in his personal digital assistant (PDA).

"Over the years, I managed to collect all the relevant facts –"
When asked to review a book like Dr. Lee Say Fatt’s Quick Management Guide to Gynaecology, the question arises as to why we need another book on gynecology when there are many more established ones in the market. What is so special about this book that it warrants one to buy it, much less read?

Well, this reference guide is a boon for the busy practicing clinician who, when faced with a patient requiring a ‘quick fix’, can easily refer to it and provide appropriate counseling to the patient. A helpful factor is that it is written in a crisp and clear manner, with flowcharts where appropriate.

The 19 chapters in the book literally cover the whole of gynecological practice. And, like all medical books of this era, the book contains evidence-based information, which I believe will be updated from time to time over the next few years.

As the author points out in his preface, this book does not replace standard textbooks or provide exquisite detail of rare problems – for this, one has to refer to specialized textbooks or journals.

I would, however, recommend this book to all clinicians, as well as would-be clinicians, to be kept as a reference guide in the office. It is also a useful book for both undergraduate and postgraduate students who need to revise at short notice for various examinations.

Book review: A quick fix for the O&G clinic

Dr. Raman Subramaniam
Consultant O&G

When asked to review a book like Dr. Lee Say Fatt’s Quick Management Guide to Gynaecology, the question arises as to why we need another book on gynecology when there are many more established ones in the market. What is so special about this book that it warrants one to buy it, much less read?

Well, this reference guide is a boon for the busy practicing clinician who, when faced with a patient requiring a ‘quick fix’, can easily refer to it and provide appropriate counseling to the patient. A helpful factor is that it is written in a crisp and clear manner, with flowcharts where appropriate.

The 19 chapters in the book literally cover the whole of gynecological practice. And, like all medical books of this era, the book contains evidence-based information, which I believe will be updated from time to time over the next few years.

As the author points out in his preface, this book does not replace standard textbooks or provide exquisite detail of rare problems – for this, one has to refer to specialized textbooks or journals.

I would, however, recommend this book to all clinicians, as well as would-be clinicians, to be kept as a reference guide in the office. It is also a useful book for both undergraduate and postgraduate students who need to revise at short notice for various examinations.