

Advanced Health Assessment *and* Diagnostic Reasoning

THIRD EDITION

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Preface

Daily life activities place physical and emotional demands on people and expose them to a wide variety of diseases and conditions. Consequently, the healthcare provider must be prepared to diagnose and treat a variety of disorders. Health assessment is a complex process, yet many assessment texts address only the physical examination component in any real depth. We developed *Advanced Health Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning* to include each step of health assessment, demonstrating the links between health history and physical examination and illustrating the diagnostic reasoning process. We wanted to fill in the missing piece in most basic physical examination texts—the thought process one must assume as one assesses an actual case.

Advanced health assessment involves determining existing conditions, assessing capabilities, and screening for disease or other factors predisposing a patient to illness. A thorough health history and physical examination are necessary to correctly diagnose existing conditions and detect risk for other conditions. This text provides the healthcare provider with the essential data needed to formulate a diagnosis and treatment plan.

Organization of the Text

This text provides three introductory chapters that cover general strategies for health—history taking, physical examination, and documentation. The remainder of the text consists of clinical chapters covering assessment of various systemic disorders (e.g., gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, musculoskeletal, etc.). Each clinical chapter includes the following sections:

Anatomy and Physiology Review

Health History

- History of Present Illness
- Past Medical History
- Family History
- Social History
- Review of Systems

Physical Examination

- Equipment Needed
- Components of the Physical Exam
- Inspection
- Palpation
- Percussion
- Auscultation

Diagnostic Reasoning**Assessment of Special Populations**

Considerations for the Pregnant Patient

Considerations for the Neonatal Patient

Considerations for the Pediatric Patient

Considerations for the Geriatric Patient

Case Study Review

Chief Complaint

Information Gathered During the Interview

Key Features

Content in this text is presented in a way that is easy to follow and retain. It is also presented so that all of the pieces of assessment “fit together.” Aspects of the health history are given in a two-column format: The first column gives the type of information that the provider should obtain, while the second column provides specific questions or information to note. The second column also takes matters a step further—it gives examples of which conditions the findings may indicate. Aspects of the physical examination are also given in a two-column format: action and rationale. The first (action) column gives the actions clinicians should take (with appropriate steps or strategies), and the second (rationale) column lists normal and abnormal findings and, as applicable, possible indications/diagnoses associated with those findings. To further demonstrate diagnostic reasoning, every clinical chapter contains a “Differential Diagnosis of Common Disorders” table, which summarizes significant findings in the history and physical exam and gives pertinent diagnostic tests for common disorders.

To demonstrate how various aspects of health assessment are applied, a case study is integrated into the chapter (e.g., the case patient’s social history is presented with the general social history content). A case study review concludes the chapter; it recounts the patient’s history and provides sample documentation of the history and physical examination. The sample documentation familiarizes students with proper and complete documentation and use of forms. The case study is complete with a final assessment finding, or diagnosis.

Every clinical chapter also includes “Assessment of Special Populations.” This section highlights important information on assessing pregnant, neonatal, pediatric, and geriatric patients.

Teaching–Learning Package

Advanced Health Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning has an extensive ancillary package, designed with both the student and the instructor in mind. Specifically designed to complement *Advanced Health Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning, Third Edition*, the access code at the front of your book offers students a valuable integration of the text and online study tools, including Case Studies and Virtual Labs. The Instructor Resources include PowerPoint slides, a test bank, lecture outlines and key points, and links to helpful resources for use in the classroom.

Acknowledgments

We have looked forward to this opportunity to thank the many people who have been instrumental in the development of this text.


We offer a sincere thanks to the contributors and consultants who have worked so hard to make certain that every chapter covered essential content important to every healthcare provider and student. Without their contributions, this text would not have benefited from that special uniqueness that each of them possesses. We are truly fortunate to know them and to have had them play such a critical role in this project.

We wish to thank the peer reviewers who reviewed the chapters, ensuring that the content was valid and essential. Their extensive, constructive criticism enabled us to feel confident that all aspects of advanced assessment are addressed, making the text a scholarly peer-reviewed textbook.

We owe a heartfelt thanks to Amanda Martin, Acquisitions Editor at Jones & Bartlett Learning. Without her encouragement and support, this third edition would not have happened.

Publisher's Note

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Health Care
Doctor
Hospital
Pharmacist
Nurse
Dentist
First Aid
Surgeon
Emergency

Disclaimer

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The authors, editors, and publisher have exerted every effort to ensure that the drug selection and dosage information set forth in this text is in accordance with the current recommendations and practice at the time of publication. However, in view of ongoing research, changes in government regulations, and the constant flow of information relating to drug therapy and drug reactions, the reader is urged to check the package insert for each drug for any change in indications and dosage and for added warnings and precautions. This is particularly important when the recommended agent is a new or infrequently employed drug.

Some drugs and medical devices presented in this publication have U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) clearance for limited use in restricted research settings. It is the responsibility of the healthcare provider to ascertain the FDA status of each drug or device planned for use in his or her clinical practice.



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