

Viva Practice for the FRCS(Urol)



Editors: M Arya, IS Shergill, JS Kalsi, A Muneer, AR Mundy

Published by:

Radcliffe Publishing Ltd

Extent: 420 pages

Format: Softback

ISBN: 978-1-8461-9317-0

Price: £45.00

Reviewed by:

Ian Pearce, Consultant Urological Surgeon, Manchester Royal Infirmary. Conflict of interest: *I have a signed copy!*

At last – the hole is filled! After almost countless years since the birth of the FRCS(Urol) we now have a text worthy of universal purchase. In fact I would imagine that, despite the relative rapidity of this review publication, most people are already aware, if not in possession, of this book. Certainly, at the most recent sitting of the FRCS(Urol) in Edinburgh last month, virtually every candidate (and a significant number of examiners!) seemed to be poring over various chapters throughout the day, no doubt in a fashion reflective of their own personal viva timetable.

With five editors and 29 contributors (including Tony Mundy who despite being one of the editors has managed to find himself omitted from the contributor list!), including three Medal winners, this book's pedigree shouts for itself – it even allows the reader to forgive the fact that some contributors are not even in possession of the FRCS(Urol).

Within the 420 pages of gold dust there are 15 chapters and, as one would expect, each addresses a particular pathology beginning with prostate cancer continuing through other oncological entities, emergency urology (two chapters), infection, female urology, benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) and even technology. In essence, every station for the exam is covered – except transplantation!

The book, which is of a size that fits firmly into the hand whilst still allowing the mildly myopic a fighting chance, was probably designed to be the sort of thing that would shorten a standing tube journey for

the reader whilst increasing it for the 'over the shoulder peeper'. It takes the form of a series of questions (in bold), each of which could easily crop up in the exam. A perfect evidence-based answer is then offered and at the end of each chapter relevant references are given, although these are not cited in the main text.

Unlike the exam proper, structured clinical scenarios with an initial stem followed by supplementary questions, are not adopted but this in no way detracts from the excellence of this book. If anything, it could be argued that an entire series of questions offers the reader more exposure within a particular field.

Where appropriate, the authors have utilised diagrams, images and tables (there is even a chemical equation to explain urea splitting!), to further illustrate answers or enhance questions.

I think special mention must be given to the final chapter of this book – 'commonly asked viva questions' – this, at a stroke, negates the need to frantically scribble viva topics down during the revision course! An entire list devoted to each viva station – brilliant idea!

This really is an excellent book and I believe all those involved in the FRCS(Urol), whether preparing for it, examining or indeed tutoring others to take it, should have it in their personal library. I'm not aware that there is anything quite like it in offering concise 'ideal' answers to probable viva questions and I think the authors should be congratulated on their achievement – an excellent and good value for money book.