

HURST'S THE HEART: MANUAL OF CARDIOLOGY

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When I was a cardiac registrar a few years ago, I remembered receiving *Hurst's The Heart* as a gift. It came in two hardcover volumes and served as a superb reference textbook for a cardiology trainee. Now, as a consultant cardiologist, I equally look forward to its companion handbook. This 2009 edition strikes me as an up-to-date, comprehensive and highly readable book. It certainly comes in handy during busy office consultations or inpatient ward rounds. Indeed, it can be used as a stand-alone for a concise source of information on the presentation, natural history and treatment of cardiovascular disease.

Most of its 62 state-of-the-art chapters are written by established Professors of Medicine in the United States, sometimes with their cardiology fellows as co-authors. This handbook will be useful to all healthcare providers looking after the entire range of patients with cardiovascular disease. These include cardiologists, cardiothoracic surgeons and general practitioners. In addition, students and trainees (basic and advanced) will find this book a delight. The manual incorporates algorithms and clinical practice guidelines from the American College of Cardiology (ACC) /American Heart Association (AHA). It not only provides guidance for the less-experienced physicians but also support practices with evidence.

Furthermore, there are plenty of figures which illustrate mechanisms and strategies as well as tables listing appropriate drugs, classifications, definitions and recommendations. Electrocardiograms and images are critical in any cardiology book and these are available to represent the various conditions and investigative modalities. These are well labelled, making it easy for readers to understand at a glance. The schematics in the book are highly useful and practical.

Besides the conventional topics found commonly in most cardiology textbooks, the manual also contains interesting and useful chapters, such as "Cardiovascular diseases caused by genetic abnormalities", "Treatment consideration in elderly patients with cardiovascular diseases", "The heart and obesity" and "Complementary medicine in relation to cardiovascular disease".

I strongly recommend this book to students and doctors interested in cardiovascular medicine.

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