

concepts are clear, and proper emphasis is made of the clinical manifestations of gastrointestinal disease. A bibliography at the end of each chapter would have been desirable to stimulate the student in seeking further knowledge. The reader will have to refer to major textbooks for more detailed explanations, statistical considerations, and controversial issues.

JOSE R. MENDEZ, M.D.  
Department of Gastroenterology  
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation

---

**Operative Strategy in General Surgery**, vol II, by Jameson L. Chassin, New York, Springer-Verlag, 1985, 603 pp, \$98.00.

This text is far more than an atlas of diagrams depicting the technical steps involved in several operations. Although many areas are covered in detail, the major ones include the breast, biliary system, pancreas, and esophageal problems. Each section begins with the basic concepts relative to the surgical area being discussed. In addition, the indications for the procedure, preoperative care, and operative pitfalls and dangers are discussed. Prior to the step-by-step technique of the procedure, the author sets forth his operative strategy. Each section concludes by listing the postoperative complications.

The breast surgery section adequately discusses the radical and modified radical mastectomy. However, little attention is given to the growing use and accuracy of core needle biopsies of dominant breast lesions. Conservative breast procedures, such as partial mastectomy with or without postoperative radiation, are not discussed.

The chapters about the biliary tree and pancreas are excellent; however, one may take issue with the recommendation of performing a total pancreatectomy for adenocarcinoma of the head of the pancreas. With respect to carcinoma of the pancreas, the recently developed pylorus-sparing Whipple operation is discussed at length.

The section dealing with esophageal surgery primarily emphasizes reflux esophagitis and its complications. Several of the standard anti-reflux procedures are illustrated. The Collis-Nissen gastropasty is discussed as a method of treating reflux esophagitis with a resultant stricture and shortened esophagus. The alternatives for esophageal replacement, such as colonic or jejunal interposition, are presented.

Several other topics which are covered include abdominal wall hernias, anorectal problems, pilonidal disease, thyroid disorders, and parotid tumors. Finally, there is an excellent section on miscellaneous problems, including the surgical approach for mucosal ulcerative colitis and familial polyposis.

This text would be a valuable addition to the library of either a surgical resident or a practicing surgeon. The major strength of the book is its detailed discussion of the concepts of the operation, as well as the operative strategy. This is not available in other atlases of surgical techniques.

DAVID P. VOGT, M.D.  
Department of General Surgery  
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation

---

**Evaluations of Drug Interactions**, ed by Arthur F. Shinn, St. Louis, C. V. Mosby, 1985, 1,068 pp, \$49.95.

*Evaluations of Drug Interactions* is a new edition of the drug reference previously published under the same name by the American Pharmaceutical Association (APhA). The APhA endorses this text, which is compiled by Professional Drug Systems, Inc. An interdisciplinary review panel of health professionals (consisting of a nurse, a dentist, and a physician) and an APhA review panel reviewed the monographs, which are prepared by the editorial staff and 21 consulting contributors. The book is available in both a softbound text and a loose-leaf version which is supplemented with bimonthly updates.

The book contains a users guide that explains the coding for the significance of the drug interaction (e.g., Code 1 is "highly clinically significant"), an exhaustive 144-page index of drug interactions arranged by the drug's generic name, and an overview of basic drug interaction mechanisms. Individual drug monographs are contained in 18 chapters of drug classes (e.g., "Antiarrhythmic Drug Interactions," "Anticoagulant Drug Interactions," and "Anticonvulsant Drug Interactions").

The individual drug monographs provide the title of the interacting drugs by generic name and a summary of the overall effects of the interaction. A "Related Drugs" section lists other drugs in the same class, regardless of whether such drugs have been reported to interact. The mechanism for the drug interaction is discussed with recommendations for suggested management. At the end of each monograph, there are references to the primary literature.

At the beginning of each chapter, there is a brief synopsis of the interactions discussed in the chapter. The synopsis contains the following elements: significance code, potential effects, and recommendations.

Physicians and pharmacists must have a reliable, up-to-date drug interaction reference available in their respective practice settings. *Evaluations of Drug Interactions* can serve this function nicely.

ALAN W. BAKST, PHARM.D., R.PH.  
Hospital Pharmacy  
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation