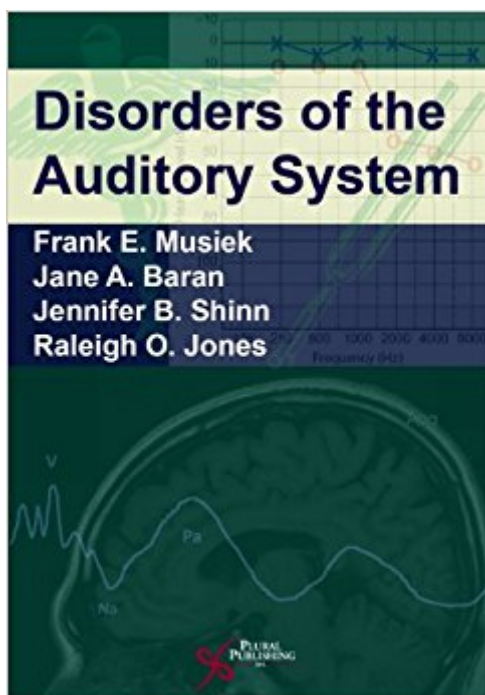


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Disorders Of The Auditory System



Synopsis

Disorders of the Auditory System covers both classic as well as new disorders of the auditory system and reflects the combined efforts of renowned audiologists and otologists. Perhaps for the first time, both the audiological and medical aspects of auditory dysfunction associated with disorders of the peripheral and central auditory system will be covered in one text. This book provides numerous insightful case studies that will provide informative reading for professionals in the fields of audiology, otology and neurology.

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Customer Reviews

Frank E. Musiek, Ph.D. is Professor and Director of Auditory Research in the Department of Communication Sciences, and Professor of Otolaryngology at the School of Medicine, University of Connecticut. Jane A. Baran, PhD, is Professor and Chair in the Department of Communication Disorders at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Jennifer B. Shinn, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Otolaryngology, Department of Surgery at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Shinn is the Chief of Audiology and Resident Research Director. Raleigh Jones, MD is Associate Professor of Surgery and Chief of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Kentucky Medical Center.

This book was assigned for a doctoral course in Medical Audiology. While it has good coverage of disorders, and a good amount of detail, it suffers from very poor editing, and a lack of creativity in

how the material is presented. Let's talk about the editing first: I would estimate there is a typographical error about every 3-4 pages in this book. In an age where spell check engines can use completely customized dictionaries, this is totally unacceptable. Example: In a bold heading on p. 243: "Otoacoustic Emissions and Acoustic Reflexes" Even as I typed that, my browser warned me that I did not type otoacoustic correctly...It's not that the typos make the text completely unreadable, but that they cast doubt on the accuracy of other statements made throughout the book. When the author says a test has 87% sensitivity, you have to wonder if there was a typo and he actually meant 78%. Does anyone believe the statement on p. 387 that 1 out of 10 babies born to 34-year old mothers has Down syndrome? Maybe they left off a zero there? As far as presentation goes, everything is presented in prose even when the material would lend itself to summary tables very nicely. As a diagnostic reference, it would have been really helpful to have certain key characteristics listed in a standard table for each disorder (e.g. unilateral/bilateral, typical onset time, etc). You have to dig through prose to find the key points you are looking for, and it takes time because within each heading "Audiological Characteristics" there is no standard order for how the different aspects of the disorder are discussed. The book also uses a lot of medical terminology with no definitions provided. This last point is probably the easiest to accept, since any medical term is easily looked up on the internet. Unfortunately, I'm not aware of a better reference available at this time. There is no doubt that the authors are very accomplished researchers and able to speak with authority. I suggest they find a better editor and put out a revised edition of this text. The audiology world deserves better.

I couldn't find any reviews of this book but took a risk and bought it sight unseen. It turned out to be an expensive gamble and I'm not sure it was worth it. I'm on a Masters course in Audiology (NZ) and was hoping to find a text that would more fully integrate our course on otolaryngology with clinical practice. In some regards it does this. The book is divided into 9 sections, covering areas such as outer and middle ear disorders, inner ear disorders, auditory nerve disorders etc, with an overview at the beginning of each section and then individual coverage of disorders. Good Points: it gives nice, clear descriptions of the disorders and includes central disorders, tinnitus, hyperacusis and genetic hearing losses. It does a good job of illustrating disorders from medical diagnosis through to how they may appear in audiometry. Each section has a comprehensive and (relatively) up-to-date reference list and there is a glossary at the end. There is a nice colour insert of the appearance of ear drums associated with different middle ear conditions. Not-so-good Points: The index isn't very comprehensive and has some page number errors, making things difficult to find.

The text lacks detail. To be honest I expected more from this book, given the broad focus of its approach and its integrative philosophy. The book is written by ENTs and audiologists, and although it covers the main disorders, some of the more unusual and rarer disorders are missed. I also found the text lacked the detail necessary to gain a good understanding of the etiology and pathology of the disorders - meaning I will still need to consult ENT texts to get a fuller picture. This seems such a shame as they had an amazing opportunity to put together a text that would bridge that sometimes frustrating gap between what we learn in otolaryngology lectures and what we are likely to see in an audiology clinic. Having said that, overall, it would be a great supplement for a course on auditory disorders if you want a more clinical focus (of if you're looking for book that will show you how various disorders manifest in audiometry etc), and it may be handy as a quick desk reference in a busy practice. But as it misses so much of the finer detail I was looking for (given the ENT authorship), I'm not sure it's worth the hefty price. If you're just starting out, it could be helpful; if you've already covered a graduate level course in otolaryngology for audiologists, you might find the gaps and lack of medical detail a bit frustrating. I had really high hopes for this book, and while it probably does what it says on the tin, given the authority of the authors and the marketing hype, I feel slightly disappointed. NOTE: it is probably fair to liken the text to an updated and expanded version of Jerger's 'Auditory Disorders'. Students looking for a text that covers the anatomy and physiology of the auditory system while clearly explaining the clinical correlates could try Musiek and Baran's other book: 'The Auditory System'. In this text they have been more successful in bridging the gap between anatomy/physiology and what appears on the audiogram/OAEs/ABRs etc. I would have loved this book in my first year and still find it incredibly useful in my second. Production values are poor - but the contents are worth it.

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