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Case Files Pediatrics, Fifth Edition

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Synopsis
Sixty high-yield pediatrics cases helps students sharpen their diagnostic and problem-solving skills

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Customer Reviews
Good for basic "clinical thinking". Not recommend for a thorough review. At least there are some mistakes to be corrected. For example, in case 44 (Growth hormone deficiency), the book says constitutional delay patients' bone age equals to chronological age. Actually those patients' bone age is delayed. In the same case, girls' ultimate height potential calculation mistakenly add 13 when it actually should be subtracted. In case 49(Substance abuse), the book says (under the title of cocaine and amphetamine) "Marked reactive hypertension or dysrhythmia may need treatment with a cardiovascular agent (β-blocker) until the intoxication resolves." Actually Beta-blocker is contraindicated in cocaine abusing patient.

Overall, I found this book to be useful for light reading when I had downtime on the ward. It was a good review for pertinent topics, and the comprehension questions and explanations were helpful. However, there needs to be significant editing. I noticed that sometimes the answers to the comprehensive questions did not match the keys. This is something that I have noticed in other books in thenCase Files series, specifically Surgery. TLDR; Good book but beware of some editing mistakes.
This book was very helpful when studying for my pediatric shelf exam. I found the cases to reflect some of the scenarios on the shelf, I answered several questions recalling the cases. I recommend going through it twice one thorough reading with doing the questions, then fast skim through the scenarios to see if you can answer the presented questions usually it's what is the next? Or what is the diagnose or differential? If you did not read it during your rotation then go through it as fast as you can over a few days right before your shelf exam.

Great way to learn on the go while you are on rotations. Each case doesn’t take long so you do 1 or 2 cases while waiting to see patients. They do a great job of explaining differential diagnoses. Also really enjoy the questions at the end of each case to solidify what you are learning.

It’s a great learning/review tool overall, and it covers many of the most important topics for students to know. All but a few of the patient vignettes are painfully obvious for any adequately prepared student even before a clerkship. At times it feels superficial, and I would prefer review questions truly to review the material in the chapter rather than introduce new information. Though research does suggest thinking about a topic before learning the answer improves memory, that’s not the overall style of the book nor the aim of the average user. I still give it 4 stars for ease of use and what I feel to be an appropriate level for students. One or two outliers is no surprise, but there were a few clusters of questions on my NBME exam that were not addressed in the least by this book - i.e. 2-3 questions per topic, for several topics that I would have hoped to anticipate.

It’s a decent book overall, however it did not prepare me enough for the Pediatrics Shelf Exam (NBME). They need to add cases that are a bit more complex perhaps. This seems like a better studying tool for PA and nursing students, not medical students. I would have used BRS pediatrics, but it’s WAY too long.

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