

## BOOK REVIEW: LANGMAN'S MEDICAL EMBRYOLOGY BY T.W. SADLER-13<sup>TH</sup> EDITION

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Embryology is an important part of the anatomy subject, however medical students struggle with studying embryology and cannot easily correlate the clinical aspect of it. As well as there is a restricted time available for teaching embryology in classes. This textbook is the key teaching aid for medical students, which aims to help the undergraduate students in clear comprehension of the subject and to assist the students to perform well in examinations. Langman's medical embryology written by T.W. Sadler and published by Wolters Kluwer publication is a well-organized, straight forward guide to this highly complex subject, placing an emphasis on the clinical correlation of embryology and presenting it in an easily digestible manner.

The book is organized in two parts. The first part covers the development right from the gametogenesis and covers the entire journey till birth. The first chapter provides an introduction to molecular regulation, which creates a good concept of genes and signalling pathways. In this book, development is given week wise, which becomes very easy to understand in a conceptual manner. There is a chapter on birth defects and prenatal diagnosis too. In the second part, there is a detailed discussion on the system based embryology, for each organ system. The Clinical correlates boxes are one of the most prominent feature of this embryology book and because of it, this is considered one of the best embryology books. The clinical case descriptions have been increased and updated in this edition.

The best thing which I like about this book is the molecular regulation. Though it is not much required for an undergraduate, but it is of immense help to the post graduates. Especially the molecular regulation of kidney is very well described in this book according to me. About 100 new illustrations have been added by Susan L. Sadler- Redmond in the present edition and scanning electron micrographs by Kathy Tosney are simply awesome. For example Figure 3.9 on page 43 shows scanning electron micrograph of uncompact

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and compacted embryo, which assists in making clearer picture of the compaction phenomenon. Embryology text book without ultrasound pictures is incomplete. In this book very nice ultrasound images by Jan Byrne and Htham Imseis are there especially the scan of 26 week fetus with spina bifida on page 154. Summaries are one of the most important feature of this embryo book, given at the end of each chapter. Medical students can use it to revise all the embryology in almost no time for their exams. Problems related to each chapter are of immense help to the students preparing for various competitive examinations in India and abroad that includes USMLE, PLAB, and All India MD/MS entrance examinations. The answers to these problems are provided in an appendix at the back of the book. There is also a glossary of key terms given at the back of book from page 385 to 394, which helps the students for getting well described definitions of key words related to embryology.

Thus, Langman's medical Embryology is a perfect text book which explains embryology in a precise and simplified manner, with an emphasis on the clinical application as well, without making the content exhaustive and dull for the students. The paper, printing quality and get up of the book is simply superb. The author has been successful in making the book concise without omitting any important and significant details. This book is highly recommended not only for all the undergraduate students but also for the postgraduates.

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