

Principles of Surgical Patient Care

Second edition. Edited by Carel J Mieny and Ulrich Mennen. Pp. xv + 1102. R699. New Africa Books (Pty) Ltd. 2003. ISBN 1-86928-005-9. (Available from SAMA/HMPG. Price R699, members R660.)

The new edition of *Principles of Surgical Patient Care* by Mieny and Mennen is a significant improvement on the previous edition, both in its content and presentation.

This book has been, and continues to be, the text of choice for postgraduate surgical trainees. As the title implies, the topics in the book cover the principles of surgical care, which would apply not only to general surgery, but also to other surgical disciplines. This book is therefore essential for any postgraduate student in the surgical disciplines.

Principles of Surgical Patient Care is the recommended text for the intermediate examinations of the College of Medicine of South Africa and for the intermediate component of the Masters in Surgery (MMed) degree. The popularity of this book among surgical trainees has spread beyond the borders of this country, and it is being widely used in many English-speaking countries.

There have been many significant advances and changes in surgical principles, especially in intensive care, trauma and the understanding of the pathophysiology of surgical problems. The second edition has been updated and reflects current understanding and management of surgical diseases. Each chapter is written by experts in the field, and although styles do vary, there is uniformity in the presentation.

The previous edition came in two volumes. The current edition is a single volume which, in my opinion, is an improvement even though it appears to be slightly bulky.

This book is absolutely essential for all surgical trainees in all surgical disciplines intending to write the intermediate examinations on the principles of surgery. It is also useful for examiners and trainers involved in the teaching and examination of the principles of surgical care. It is also useful as a reference text for undergraduate medical students and dental students who have to study principles of surgical care.

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