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"Can You Handle the Truth?"

"Mosby's Diagnostic & Laboratory Test Reference"

Kathleen Deska Pagana and Timothy J. Pagana, 2009, 1,078 pages, Mosby Elsevier, \$44.95

Review by Norman M. Goldfarb

"Mosby's Diagnostic & Laboratory Test Reference" is a compact yet comprehensive and easy-to-use compendium of over 500 clinical tests, from abdominal ultrasound to wound culture and sensitivity.

The description of each test includes the following information, most of which is directly useful in designing clinical studies and writing protocols:

- Name of test
- Type of test
- Normal findings
- Possible critical values that require physician notification
- Test explanation and related physiology
- Contraindications
- Potential complications
- Interfering factors
- Procedure and patient care before, during and after the test
- Abnormal findings (i.e., possible causes, e.g., endocarditis)

This book has been selected for
[The First Clinical Research Bookshelf](#)
Essential reading for clinical research professionals

The description of the test for bilirubin, for example, is 3.5 pages long, including a body organ diagram of bilirubin metabolism and excretion. Drugs that may cause decreased levels of total bilirubin include barbiturates, caffeine, penicillin and high-dose salicylates. Twenty-seven drugs and classes of drugs (including salicylates) can cause increased levels of total bilirubin. Causes of abnormal findings are divided into conjugated (direct) bilirubin (e.g., Dubin-Johnson syndrome) and unconjugated (indirect) bilirubin (e.g., Crigler-Najar syndrome).

The tests are presented alphabetically. There are three indices:

- Type of test (e.g., electrodiagnostic)
- Body system (e.g., cardiovascular)
- Panel (e.g., anemia)

The book is available in bookstores.

Reviewer

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