The results of this study indicate that dietary preparation can influence assessment of percentage body fat by hydrostatic weighing. The length of fast necessary for accurate and reliable hydrostatic weighing is yet undetermined.

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BOOK REVIEW

Title: **DIAGNOSTIC PICTURE TESTS IN INJURY IN SPORT**
Author: J. G. P. Williams
Publisher: Wolfe Medical Publications, London 1988
Price: £6.50 **128 pages** **Soft cover** **200 questions with answers** **ISBN 0 7234 0925 5**

Wolfe's Diagnostic Tests are already quite well-known in several branches of medicine, especially in those branches such as orthopaedics and rheumatology where the diseases or injuries lend themselves to colour photographs or X-rays. This self-testing book falls well into this category. My first impression was that the illustrations would merely be taken from the author's previous Colour Atlas of Injury in Sport or other publications, but I was surprised to find that most of the pictures were new to me. Another early impression was the completely random arrangement of the conditions, anatomically and pathologically, which would make it difficult to search for an illustration of any particular lesion, but then, it is not a text-book to be used for reference, but what it sets out to be, 200 pictures with brief clinical notes to test the knowledge and observation of the reader, as in the picture quizzes in some of the medical newspapers, and to let him check the answers immediately. The random order cannot be regarded as a weakness, but rather it simulates the random order in which patients present themselves in a clinic or general practice consulting room or even a changing room. A most important point brought out is that pathology in a sportsman may not be due to sport, but to totally unrelated conditions such as malignant or non-malignant tumours, congenital malformations or accessory bones that imitate trauma unless the X-rays are studied carefully, and if possible compared with films from the opposite side of the body.

Most of the illustrations are clear, but sometimes minor colour changes are difficult to detect, and several X-rays difficult to interpret in the small size to which they have had to be reduced. In clinical practice, however, some X-rays ARE very difficult to interpret and such conditions as stress fractures are easily missed on first presentation of symptoms. This is not a sort of clinical game of 'Trivial Pursuits', though it could be used in a small group of students, doctors or physiotherapists after lectures during a sports medicine course. At the price of £6.50 it might be worth course organisers laying in a small stock to test a few of their pupils at a time.

Henry E. Robson