

Algorithms in Differential Diagnosis

How to Approach Common Presenting Complaints in Adult Patients,
for Medical Students and Junior Doctors

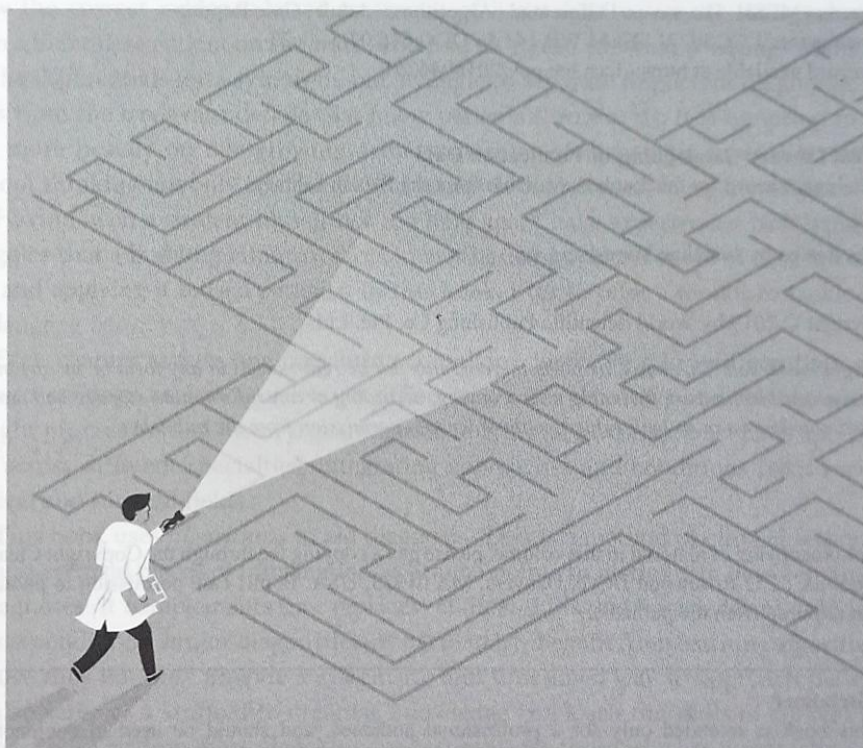
Dr. Nigel Fong



Preface

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Dr. Nigel Fong

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World Scientific

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Published by

World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd.

5 Toh Tuck Link, Singapore 596224

USA office: 27 Warren Street, Suite 401-402, Hackensack, NJ 07601

UK office: 57 Shelton Street, Covent Garden, London WC2H 9HE

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Fong, Nigel (Nigel Jie Ming), author.

Title: Algorithms in differential diagnosis : how to approach common presenting complaints in adult patients, for medical students and junior doctors / Dr. Nigel Fong.

Description: New Jersey : World Scientific, 2019. | Includes index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2018046261 | ISBN 9789813232921 (hardcover : alk. paper) |

ISBN 9813232927 (hardcover : alk. paper) | ISBN 9789811200557 (pbk. : alk. paper) |

ISBN 9811200556 (pbk. : alk. paper)

Subjects: | MESH: Diagnosis, Differential | Algorithms | Adult | Case Reports

Classification: LCC RC71 | NLM WB 141.5 | DDC 616.07/5--dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2018046261>

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Cover design by Jonathan Yong-Ern Lim

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This book is intended only for a professional audience, and should be used in conjunction with other reference texts and clinical experience. Accurate diagnosis and safe clinical practice is the physician's responsibility. Readers are urged to keep up to date with changes in medical knowledge and best practice. Additionally, junior physicians are advised to consult senior staff if unsure how to manage a patient. While the Author and Publisher have made every effort to ensure that the content of this book is accurate and up to date, neither the Author nor Publisher assumes liability for any error, omission, or harm resulting from the material in this book.

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<https://www.worldscientific.com/worldscibooks/10.1142/10787#t=suppl>

Printed in Singapore by Mainland Press Ptd Ltd.

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	v
<i>Subspecialty Reviewers</i>	vii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	ix
Introduction	1
1 Learning How to Diagnose	3
Heart and Lungs	17
2 An Approach to Hypotension	19
3 An Approach to Chest Pain	27
4 An Approach to Dyspnoea and Hypoxaemia	39
5 An Approach to Palpitations and Arrhythmias	57
6 An Approach to Hypertension	65
7 An Approach to Cough	70
8 An Approach to Haemoptysis	77
Gut and Abdomen	83
9 An Approach to Abdominal Pain	85
10 An Approach to Jaundice and Abnormal Liver Function Tests	102
11 An Approach to Gastrointestinal Bleeding	112
12 An Approach to Nausea and Vomiting	120
13 An Approach to Diarrhoea	128
14 An Approach to Constipation	135
15 An Approach to Dysphagia	139
Kidneys and Urinary Tract	145
16 An Approach to Acid-Base Disorders	147
17 An Approach to Electrolyte Imbalances	156
18 An Approach to Elevated Creatinine and Oliguria	177

19 An Approach to Polyuria	185
20 An Approach to Haematuria and Proteinuria	189
21 An Approach to Difficulty Urinating	201
Brain, Nerves and Senses	209
22 An Approach to Headache	211
23 An Approach to Blackouts: Syncope and Seizure	220
24 An Approach to Giddiness	232
25 An Approach to Weakness	239
26 An Approach to Cranial Nerve Palsy	259
27 An Approach to Red Eye and Loss of Vision	269
28 An Approach to Hearing Loss	276
29 An Approach to Ataxia	282
30 An Approach to Abnormal Movement	287
31 An Approach to Altered Mental State and Cognitive Decline	293
Blood	303
32 An Approach to Anaemia	305
33 An Approach to Abnormal Bleeding	320
34 An Approach to High Cell Counts	328
Endocrine and General Physiological Disturbances	339
35 An Approach to Fever	341
36 An Approach to Thyroid Abnormalities	351
37 An Approach to Hyper- and Hypoglycaemia	360
38 An Approach to Obesity and the Cushing's Syndrome	366
39 An Approach to Falls in the Elderly	371
Skin and Subcutaneous Tissues	377
40 An Approach to Rash	379
41 An Approach to Skin Growths and Lumps	392
42 An Approach to Groin Lumps	397
43 An Approach to Breast Lumps and Complaints	402
44 An Approach to Neck Lumps	406
45 An Approach to Lymphadenopathy	411

46 An Approach to Lower Limb Pain and Ulcers	416
47 An Approach to Lower Limb Swelling	423

Joints and Muscles **429**

48 An Approach to Joint Pain (General)	431
49 An Approach to Shoulder Pain	444
50 An Approach to Knee Pain	449
51 An Approach to Back and Neck Pain	454

Female Genital Tract **463**

52 An Approach to Vaginal Bleeding (Non-Pregnant)	465
53 An Approach to Vaginal Bleeding (Pregnant)	471
54 An Approach to Amenorrhoea and Virilisation	475

<i>Index to Conditions</i>	483
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Algorithms in Differential Diagnosis

How to Approach Common Presenting Complaints in Adult Patients,
for Medical Students and Junior Doctors

This is a book for medical students and first-year doctors who wish to learn how to approach a patient's symptoms, and sharpen their skills of clinical reasoning and diagnosis. Fifty-four presenting symptoms are discussed, covering approaches and conditions across various medical and surgical disciplines. Each chapter sets out the thought process behind history, examination, and investigations for a symptom, providing a systematic and practical algorithm to distinguish one differential from another. The reader will gain not only a functional approach to patients' presenting complaints, but also learn how to better organize and apply medical knowledge in diagnostic reasoning.

What others have said:

"This book has helped to shape how I think about approaching patients. Those who read and understand it will be able to better synthesize the immense amount of medical knowledge expected from us."

Tan Jiekai, medical student, National University of Singapore

"Other textbooks tend to teach one disease at a time, which is not how it is in the wards. Differential diagnosis is a fundamental skill we need to pick up and this book does the trick."

Lynnette Ng, medical student, National University of Singapore

"Nigel's Algorithms is a handy gestalt approach to the problems that patients present with, and succinctly provides a scaffolding for students to learn how to diagnose. One of this book's strengths is that it was written at a relatively junior stage of the author's career — he understands the confusion that students have, and is thus able to guide the learner through a diagnostic approach much better than someone older. The pairing of a junior author with 20 senior specialist reviewers has ensured both accuracy and approachability."

Dr. Ong Thun How, Senior Consultant & Program Director,
Respiratory & Critical Care Medicine, Singapore General Hospital

About the author:

Dr. Nigel Fong is a Resident in Internal Medicine at Singapore General Hospital, Singapore's largest tertiary academic medical centre. He was a recipient of the prestigious President's scholarship, and graduated with honours from the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore. Apart from clinical medicine, his interests include medical education and healthcare policy.

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