

The Consequence and Cause of Pyloric Stenosis of Infancy - Two Personal Stories

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Dear Editor,

Thank you for allowing us to write a review on the above titled book. The review was written by 2 individuals and they are enclosed below:

First Review

This wonderful book on pyloric stenosis describes the experience of two doctors. It details the journey of two individuals, a Theologian and a Surgeon. One relates his personal experiences with pyloric stenosis and his support for many 'survivors'; the other a search for answers to the pathophysiology of this puzzling condition. The book is written in a very personal yet interesting manner. Humour is used appropriately and deep experiences are shared. The story of adjusting to the postoperative issues, especially a scar, was very illuminating. Few clinicians appreciate how much patients really go through in coming to terms with scars acquired at a young age. The quote from Plato mentioned in the book was very apt: "The greatest mistake in the treatment of diseases is that there are physicians for the body and physicians for the soul, although the two cannot be separated".

The book presents a fascinating account of the history and work that went into unravelling the problem of pyloric stenosis. It provides a detailed account of the research and findings. The combination of a personal and professional account means that this book is of value to clinicians, families and 'survivors' of pyloric stenosis. I suspect if more medical books were born of and written with such passion, many more individuals would be inspired to support not just their patient's body but also their soul.

I recommend this book to my colleagues, patients and families searching for answers.

Dato' Dr Amar-Singh HSS

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Second Review

It concerns 2 individuals sharing the same interest with this difference: One who lives for the success of Pyloric Stenosis and the other who has successfully lived with Pyloric Stenosis (PS). It comes to show that the narrative documents within the medical field has been bleak of late. It was amazing to hear a narrative from the man who had long suffered from PS and his story of the post PS effects from the operation (PTSD and his affected esteem due to his scar that still haunts him). The other author has given an insightful description to his life's work on PS. Knowing Ian from his work and as a person- you know the man eats, sleeps and dreams about PS the whole day!. Having done some early research with him, he has successfully summarized his work and work that he holds with high regards of concerning PS. His life-long dream of pursuing the awareness of this dreadful condition has materialized- well done Prof Ian. Overall, this book is written

for people who can come from various backgrounds and field- it is just that simply written (even with the occasional high technical terms). So long as you want to know something and nearly everything about PS- this is a book you should strongly consider reading. It is factual and narrative cooked together that brewed into a perfect blend (although some statistics provided has to be accepted with a pinch of salt- just like all stats!). It is a book that can open the human aspect of PS- especially with the narrative form a patient himself. We doctors sometimes cut, repair and celebrate- little do we realize that when the op is done, that is where the real treatment starts. Operations can be prolonged for hours but scar lasts a lifetime- that is the least a doctor can get from this book. Some formatting still needs to be done and I am sure the second edition will see to the nitty gritty details.

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Thank you

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