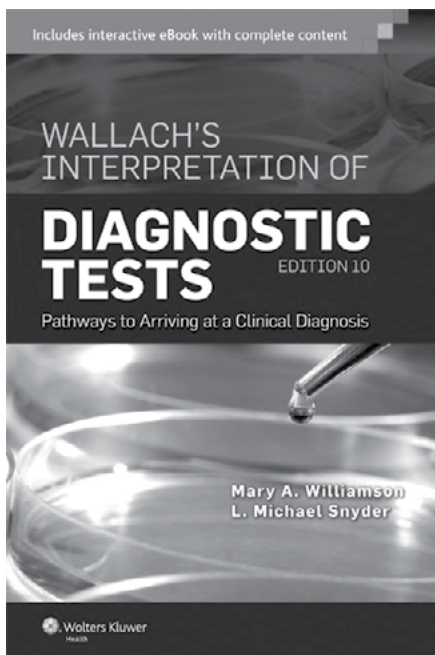


# Wallach's Interpretation of Diagnostic Tests: Pathways to Arriving at a Clinical Diagnosis

Chimidtseren Soodoi<sup>1, 2</sup>, MD, PhD

<sup>1</sup>General Laboratory of Clinical Pathology, First Central Hospital of Mongolia; <sup>2</sup>Department of Microbiology & Immunology, School of Pharmacy & Biomedicine, Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

chimidtseren@mnums.edu.mn



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Wallach's Interpretation of Diagnostic Tests, 10th edition is a book which has been my daily advisor as I lead the diagnostic lab at the hospital and has contributed significantly to improve clinician's understanding and acceptance of clinical diagnostic tests. The development of advanced technology in laboratory medicine and its subsequent rapid usage in the daily health care system require continuous improvement of a physician's knowledge of diagnostic testing in clinics. Wallach's Interpretation of Diagnostic Tests assists physicians in conducting more effective and efficient laboratory tests as a daily practical guide. The book is comprised of two sections. The first is devoted to disease states and the second details 400 commonly-practice tests placing importance on clinical/diagnostic decision making.

Section one provides emphasis on initial problems identified by the patients by first taking a round of physical examination findings and secondly using that information to confirm the patient's complaint as it relates to the disease state. Featured are over 600 internal disease diagnostics and laboratory findings. Several contributions by new authors in this edition include specialists in cardiovascular medicine, transfusion medicine and pathology. These contributing authors added chapters on HLA, transfusion medicine, genitourinary disorders and OBGYN and updated existing chapters on molecular diagnostics, pulmonary, cardiac and neurologic disease states. Also, new symptoms (dyspnea, syncope, sudden cardiac arrest) have been added to the cardiovascular chapter.

Section two lists hundreds of lab tests which are critical to daily clinical decision making and important to health care service improvement, particularly in selecting appropriate and timely treatment. It also includes the potential complication of the tests, which is important to me since there are not many guide books available in my expertise area. Microbiology tests and numbers of infectious disease assays are listed in separate chapters. Moreover, this section includes information on most recent/modern molecular diagnostic testing, cytogenetics, common pitfalls, test limitations, and identification of appropriate tests for specific clinical presentations.

This book does not only provides diagnostic guidance to clinicians, but also guidance in selecting appropriate tests. It is a pleasure to observe the improvement

in the book series as it enhances the index to make it easier for physicians, clinical pathologists, medical technologists, nurses and medical students to locate the subjects of interest. Additionally, having an electronic version available, which links tests mentioned in the disease section to the individual test section of the book, is really practical in the current world. For the electronic version, there is a search tool that allows one to locate specific diagnostic results within the book. The search tool is easy to navigate and it provides reader's notes, web cross-linked pages, and various references. A highlighting option is available for easier reference to key contents throughout the text. The user can also take and share notes with colleagues with the "quick" reference tabbing to save the user's selected content for future use.

Unfortunately, the book does not include references to pathophysiology or therapy. However, limitations of testing as well as identifying appropriate tests for specific clinical presentations are well addressed. Ordering of proper tests is important since the tests can determine the stage of the disease, estimate the activity of the disease, detect possible recurrence of a disease, monitor

effects of therapy, and provide genetic counseling in familial conditions. As a practical guide, the book assists the physician in achieving these purposes without wasting resources.

This book is one of the most user-friendly textbook I have used and therefore, it has become my daily reference. It has a tabular and graphic style of concise presentation, emphasizes serial time changes in laboratory findings in various stages of disease, and is focused on most important diseases that physicians need to diagnose. It is also a great source of more recent references in medicine, hematology, clinical pathology and others.

The need for a book of this type is especially great in developing countries where physician expertise regarding new diagnostic tests may be limited. This book is helpful to physicians when they require assistance from a pathologist but do not have quick access to that person. The textbook is used by many worldwide, which demonstrates its importance and uniqueness in helping physicians select and interpret laboratory tests, and I would recommend it for medical professionals worldwide.