

Management of Smell and Taste Disorders

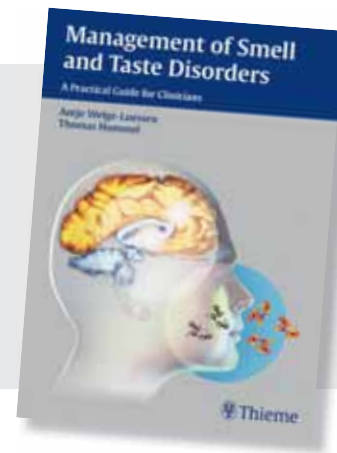
A practical guide for clinicians

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This excellent monograph edited by two well-known experts in the field is a welcome contribution to the literature. As indicated by the title, it provides a comprehensive overview of all the major aspects of smell and taste with a strong emphasis on the clinical issues and how to manage them. The international authorship is provided by basic scientists and clinical experts in the field, the book is compact, clearly presented and well-referenced. Key points are emphasised throughout the text and the book is well-illustrated though if I have a criticism, it is that the imaging does not always reproduce optimally in some chapters. The neurophysiology and functional anatomy provides a clear summary of our present knowledge, including a short chapter on the intriguing vomero-nasal organ. Perhaps the most important chapters (Chaps 5, 6 & 17) concern diagnostic techniques for both smell and taste and I particularly liked the chapter on evaluation of chemoreception in infants and children (Chap 10). The causes of olfactory loss and their management are covered concisely with a realistic appraisal of the results of treatment and the important effects of neurodegenerative diseases on olfaction are given due consideration. Clinical problems affecting the trigeminal nerve and taste constitute a significant part of the book followed by a concluding chapter on the interaction between the chemical senses.

Given the wide range of medical conditions and external factors which can influence smell and taste, this book would be of interest and value to many clinicians, from ENT, head and neck, maxillo-facial and oral, to neurology, endocrinology and psychiatry, not to mention those with a medicolegal practice. A fascinating read.

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