

MEDICAL PHYSIOLOGY: THE BIG PICTURE

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Medical Physiology: The Big Picture is part of the *The Big Picture* series, a set of medical books published by McGraw-Hill. *The Big Picture* series is targeted towards the student who has limited study time. As such, the book contains the pertinent information that the student needs to know, while omitting details usually found in most other textbooks. In short, this is a condensed textbook carrying just the essential information.

The book contents are similar to any other physiology textbook. Each chapter talks about a different system in the body. One should not have a problem finding a specific chapter or term. There is also a unique last chapter, entitled "Final Examination". This chapter contains 108 multiple-choice questions covering the entire book, complete with answers and the explanation of the answers.

With 448 pages, the book is considerably smaller in size compared to my other medical textbooks. I assumed that some information will definitely be missing; but after reading the textbook, I found that it retains almost all, if not all of the crucial information that a textbook for last-minute studying must have. Important terms and meanings are also highlighted in bold, making it more noticeable. The page layout is such that half the page is dedicated to the text, while the other half are for pictures, diagrams and tables. This layout, although varied during the first chapter of the book, was nauseously identical throughout the rest of the book. Often, I found my head spinning while reading a page where a graphical aid was not present.

This book is similar in all aspects to a student's study notes, perhaps even having a little more detail. It is condensed, contains only the most necessary of information and has important terms in bold font. It would be an ill-prepared student's godsend. However, one should not solely depend upon this book for last-minute study, if one can help it. Lastly, this book is also suitable for any interested non-medical person who does not need to know medicine in so much detail.

Given its size, the USD 44.95 that *Medical Physiology: The Big Picture* is retailing for is not much to ask for if one is really short on time. Otherwise, it does not offer a significant advantage over your personal notes. Verdict: get this book, but only if you do not feel prepared enough.

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