

Netter's: Anatomy that Fits Your Pocket

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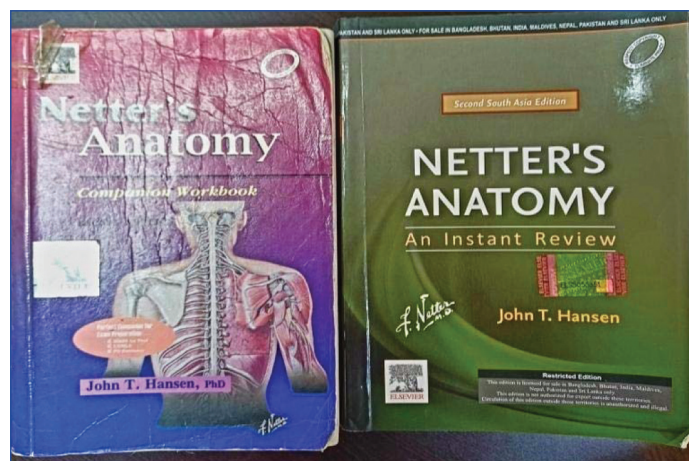
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INTRODUCTION

Most medical students rely on heavy and large atlases to guide themselves during the procedure of dissecting the cadavers at medical schools. Hence, they would resort to purchasing large and heavy atlases in groups so that the cost of purchase could be shared amongst themselves. Sometimes the students would also find it difficult to carry such huge atlases owing to the sheer weight of the same. Hence, the authors found the attributes of this miniaturised pocket friendly atlas of human anatomy entitled: "Netter's Anatomy: An Instant Review (second south Asian edition)" useful to overcome the aforementioned problems, which in our opinion is not only lighter in weight and easy to carry, but also appealing to the eyes due to the glossy miniaturised hallmark images within it that were originally produced and signed by the great Frank H Netter himself, and this has also prompted the authors to write this book review. This compact atlas of gross anatomy is a concise and portable reference guide that has been a cornerstone of anatomy education for over a decade. It is priced at Rs 865/- with a weight of 239 grams and a print length of 680 pages. It has dimensions of 14 cm length, 22 cm breadth and thickness of 6 cm.

This pocket sized atlas is a masterful compilation of Frank H Netter's original iconic illustrations, providing a comprehensive overview of the human body's intricate anatomy. The atlas is designed to fit into a shirt pocket or an apron pocket, making it an ideal companion for students, clinicians, and healthcare professionals on-the-go [Table/Fig-1]. It features around 526 of Netter's renowned illustrations, which have been carefully selected and organised to provide a clear yet concise understanding of human anatomy. This pocket anatomy atlas is organised 'region by region', allowing the users to easily locate and review specific anatomical structures with ease. Throughout this book the author provides clinical correlations and notes, highlighting the practical applications of anatomical knowledge. The first edition of this book was released in the year 2007 with the title - "Netter's Anatomy: Companion Workbook". It was edited by John T Hansen and published by Saunders (an imprint of Elsevier Inc) based at Philadelphia and the original ISBN of the first edition was 978-1-4160-3974-7. The second restricted South Asian edition of this book was released with the title- "Netter's Anatomy: An Instant Review", whose editor remained the same. However this second edition was published by RELX India private limited (a subunit of Elsevier Inc) and was released in 2019 with the ISBN 978-81-312-5712-8. These details can be accessed at <https://www.medtree.co.in/product/netters-anatomy-an-instant-review-second-south-asia-edition>. Both editions of this book are also available online.

Strengths and Weaknesses of the Contents of this Atlas: A critical evaluation of this atlas shows that the anatomical details within the atlas are highly accurate with precise conveyance of matter. The clinical notes are included as a grey box in the latest edition. It is clinically relevant to medical students, nursing students and paramedical students of all medical disciplines especially in the earliest stages of their career where they are enthused in exploring



[Table/Fig-1]: Netter's pocket anatomy atlas (left - old international edition, right - new second south Asian edition)

anatomy to the fullest. Netter's illustrations are renowned for their clarity, accuracy and detail making them an invaluable resource for anatomy education. It would be a great tool for medical students, dental students, nursing students and health care professionals of all disciplines to enhance their existing knowledge in human anatomy. The editor John T Hansen has done a great work by reorganising the image plates in a miniaturised manner with colourful illustrations. This atlas is designed for easy use not only with clear headings and concise labels but also with a logical organisation of subject that facilitates quick review and easy referencing. The pocket-sized format of this atlas makes it a valuable tool that can be easily transported to various classrooms and consulted in a variety of settings. While the atlas in its entirety provides a comprehensive overview of human anatomy, it may not provide the same level of detail as its larger, more comprehensive counterparts. Also the illustrations may not necessarily match with that of the comprehensive anatomy texts.

While Netter's illustrations are iconic and timeless, some may appear slightly outdated compared to the more modern anatomy texts. There are some subtle differences that we have observed between the first and the second editions of this book which are highlighted below in [Table/Fig-2]. These differences are just our personal opinion and they might vary between the readers.

The plates within both the editions of this atlas are arranged region wise anatomically starting from head and neck, followed by back and spinal cord, then by thorax, abdomen, pelvis, perineum, upper limb and finally the lower limb. For each of the sub-regions, the image plates are again arranged in a particular order starting from bones and joints, followed by muscles, then by nerves, vessels and then finally the viscera. All the image plates concerning bones and joints are grouped together as a meticulous unit followed by the muscle unit, upto the final unit of the viscera as mentioned earlier, which makes it convenient for the readers to sort out the images easily. However the number of image plates in the vessels unit as well as the viscera unit is less as compared to those of the muscles and bones which could be a limitation of this atlas.

Edition	Overall size	Page quality	Illustration notes after each image	Image quality	Total no. of image plates	No. of muscle based image plates
First	Exactly pocket sized fit (14 cm length, 20 cm breadth and thickness of 5 cm)	Thick and glossy	Basic illustrations with comments	Good and shiny (makes it more attractive)	More (535 plates)	More
Second	A bit more thicker compared to the previous one (14 cm length, 22 cm breadth and thickness of 6 cm)	Thin and glossy	Basic illustrations with comments and also extra clinical notes within separate boxes	Good	Less (526 plates)	Less

[Table/Fig-2]: Differences between the first and second editions of this pocket size atlas.

Target Audience: "Netter's Anatomy: An Instant Review" is an essential resource not only for medical students but also for clinicians and health care professionals, providing a concise and accessible roadway to human anatomy. It is also an invaluable resource for medical teachers, nurses and paramedical professionals, providing a quick and easy reference guide for appreciating the relationships between internal organs and viscera. This atlas is not only a valuable teaching tool but also a concise self assessment tool providing a rapid overview of bones, muscles and nerves that are integrated into compact plates displayed as charts.

CONCLUSION(S)

This pocket friendly atlas of Anatomy is a treasured classic that has been a cornerstone of anatomy and medical education for over a decade since the year 2007. Its concise and portable format, combined with Netter's signature iconic illustrations, make it an essential resource for medical students, clinicians, and healthcare professionals. While it may have some limitations in terms of depth

and detail, the atlas remains an invaluable reference guide that is sure to contribute to the inspiration, passion and education of anatomy enthusiasts for generations to come.

About the book: Hansen JT Netter's Anatomy: An Instant Review. 2nd edn South Asia: RELX India pvt., Ltd; 2019. ISBN: 978-81-312-5712-8. The printed version of this book is available at <http://www.amazon.in> and also from the book publisher's own website.

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