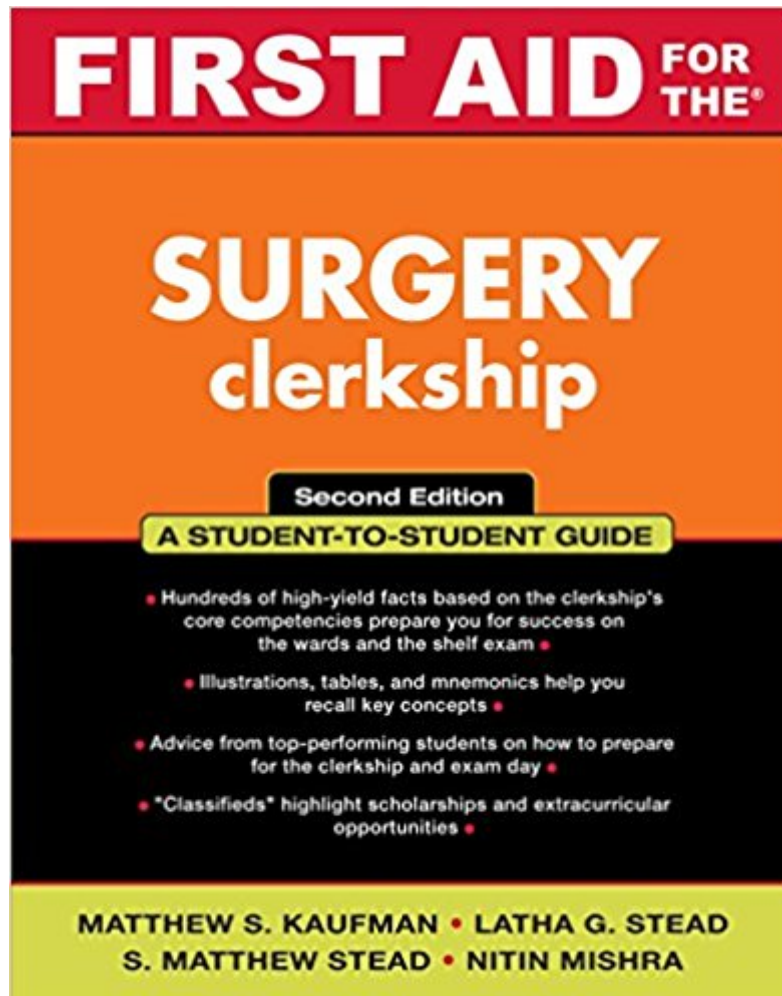




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# First Aid For The Surgery Clerkship (First Aid Series)



## Synopsis

The student-to-student, step-by-step guide to surgery clerkship success There is no better way to ace the surgery clerkship exam and impress on the wards than First Aid for the Surgery Clerkship. Completely updated throughout, the Second Edition includes a guide to excelling in the clerkship, a high-yield review of core material, common exam and "pimp" questions, and a section of "classifieds" including scholarship opportunities. Detailed what-to-study and what you must-know advice from clerkship veterans helps you ace the surgery clerkship exam and impress on the wards. Frequently-tested high-yield facts and mnemonics maximize your study time • Exam Tips • reinforce concepts you need to know on exam day • Ward Tips • prepare you for common •pimp• questions • Classifieds • highlight extracurricular opportunities and scholarships

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

At least half this book is exactly the same as First Aid for the Medicine Clerkship, but it does a good job of describing pathophysiology, differential diagnosis, and surgical management of issues. It's helpful that it includes chapters on the various surgical subspecialties. I wouldn't say that it is particularly high yield because it's over 500 pages. It would be the most helpful to someone who hasn't already had their medicine clerkship.

The book (and others in the series I have used) is quite good, with clear, well-summarized material.

There are a few caveats, however: 1. In this 1st edition, there are many typos. Most are obvious (misspelling, repeating a word or phrase or phrase twice in a row, etc.), but betray a lack of proofreading. I THINK all the important information is accurate, but the typos don't inspire confidence... 2. The font size is big, the line spacing generous, and there's lots of white space on the pages, which makes for easy reading, but as a result it's not a small book. It would be nice if some of the font sizing/line spacing were sacrificed for a more pocketable book that might fit in a white coat, like the "Recall" series. (The "Recall" series has its hits and misses, but Surgical Recall is a must-have book for the surgery rotation. Really. It goes very well with First Aid or the similar "Blueprints.") 3. The "Blueprints" series is very similar to this "First Aid" series, with the addition of a test prep. question/answer section in the back. It would be nice if First Aid had SOME sort of review mechanism--maybe Q/A's at the end of each chapter or at the end of the book. Overall, it's a good series, even with my "gripes."

What I love about this text is the comprehensiveness. It has something for all the surg specialties and does a pretty decent job at capturing the most important information. It's full of eponyms that will impress your residents/attendings and facts that will help you on the shelf. I was able to get through the entire text and do the uworld surg questions and ended up with a 97 on the shelf. This is the ideal resource for outline learners. If you thrive on vignettes then look elsewhere. I can't stand case files. The only info it lacks is peds ortho, which is actually very high yield on the shelf. The fluids/electrolytes/nutrition section is on the weak side. The trauma chapter could use improvement as well. The appendix chapter lacks the Alvarado scoring system.

First let me state that I have in general been a fan of the "First Aid" genre. I used First Aid for the Step 1 with favorable results. I have First Aid for the Step 2 and am satisfied with it. This book is not as strong as the aforementioned two titles, but as I alluded to in the title of this review, there simply aren't many good surgical clerkship books. First of all, Sabiston's is way too expensive, bulky, and filled with technical details on the performance of surgery--not the ideal source for a medical student completing a 6-8 week clerkship course. Surgical Recall, by contrast, is too superficial--written in question and answer format, it is a better resource for "pimp questions" than conceptually grasping the material. In First Aid for the Surgery, I found a happy medium between those two extremes. It was more suited to the medical student, providing details of how to do a good preoperative physical and the basics of anesthesia, as well as the oft-tested topic of "when to do surgery vs. conservative medical management". The weaknesses of the book is that it was a lofty read for a review book and

that a lot of the chapters were beyond what is needed for general surgery (ie specialty chapters on pediatric surgery, neurosurgery, etc.) I would have liked the book better if they had put more energy and effort into the general surg chapters and omitted the specialty chapters entirely--or at least integrated that info into the rest of the book. The specialty chapters weighed down the book as well as detracted from the otherwise logical organization of the book by organ system and topic--for that reason I'd only give it 3 stars.

Fairly comprehensive information, very list-heavy, but not always organized in a logical way. Some of this lists seem more like a slew of random facts related to the topic, rather than a systematic description, diagnosis, and treatment-style organization. Mostly useful as a place to take notes from other texts, but even then, not always the best because of the odd organization.

I found this a good study tool for my third year surgery rotation. I used it to study the daily topics for lecture instead of the chapters worth of SurgeryScore they assigned. Gave me the high yield information in an easy to follow format.

It's a lot of help while you're going through your surgery rotation. As much as I would have liked to have read the text book, there isn't a lot of time due to the long hours of work. This book helps fill in the gaps. Some things might be too simplified, so it might be helpful to supplement with the required books.

I have not taken the shelf yet but this review book seems a little too general for the purpose of preparing for pimping on the wards or in the OR. There is some solid information and everything is presented in a clear, easy to read way with First Aid's trademark boxes in the margins with helpful hints. This is my 2nd time using this series (1st was with psych) and I'm thinking bc this discipline is so much more general you definitely need more texts. I definitely wouldn't say I regret buying but just keep in mind that you may need Lawrence's Essentials or some other reference to read chapters pertaining to the specialty service you will be on.

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