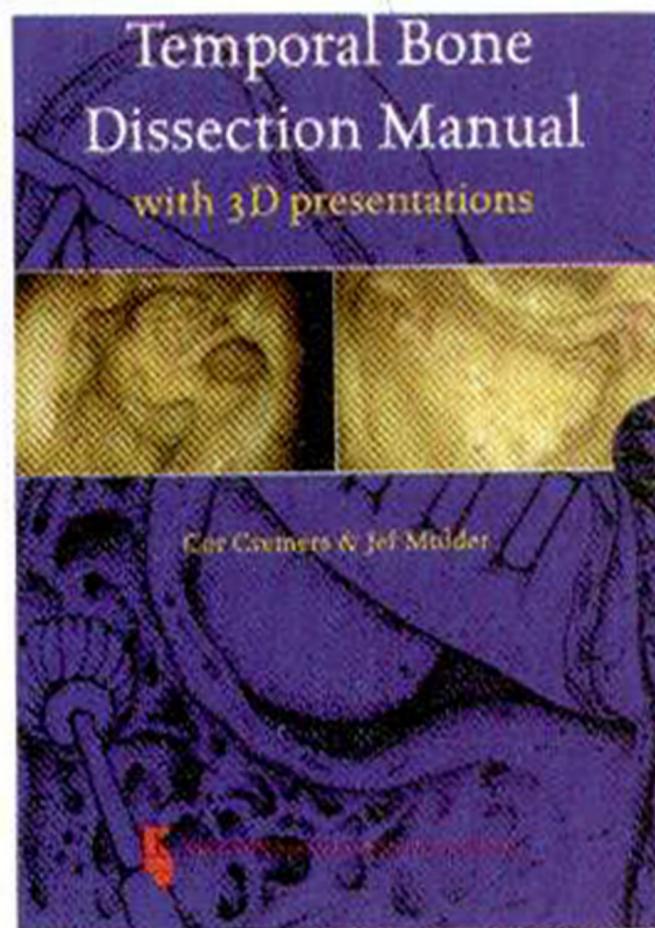


Temporal Bone Dissection Manual with 3D Presentations

Authors: Cor Cremers and Jef Mulder. **Published by:** Kugler Publications. **ISBN:** 978-9-06299-225-6. **Price:** €125.

With temporal bones becoming a scarce resource in training, this manual is a very welcome development. In this context, a particular strength of this carefully composed work (based on over forty years of teaching experience in Nijmegen) is the ability to perform all 16 consecutive procedures dissecting just one temporal bone. The text (with indications for each procedure) is just right for the one who just wants to get on with the dissection in a step-by-step fashion with nicely labelled illustrations. The main selling point touted for the manual is the 3D representations in the second book though and it would be fair to say it certainly is a novel approach, giving the reader the illusion of depth in (colour) vision.

The key to benefiting from a 3D model is realism and interactivity. Although in colour, with the illusion of perspective and depth of vision, the problem was that the photographs were just not bright or clear enough especially in relation to the mesotympanum (for example when compared with those of Sanna's manual). There are 83 photographs detailing progressively deeper dissection,



brought to life (in a fashion) with the red / blue 3D glasses but there was more parallax 'movement' in the vertical versus horizontal anatomical plane which undermined the illusion of realism. Beyond that, understandably, in the book form, there is simply no interactivity beyond tilting the atlas or moving one's head side to side to get perspective. Three dimensional modelling would be much more suitable to computers or even physical models where you can actually interact better – as you would with the real temporal bone. It can take some time to adjust to the 3D glasses.

Despite these criticisms, the 3D representations give one further perspectives (beyond merely photographs) on areas of the temporal bone we do not routinely see in our practice. The

advantages of having a robust manual with a road map to maximising the procedures on, lead me to agree with Fisch (in his foreword) in recommending this interesting atlas.

Reviewed by Noweed Ahriad, ENT Registrar Northern Deanery, UK.