
This CD ROM presents a set of comparative views of the pectoral girdle, sliced in various planes, in the form of gross anatomy, CT scans, MR images and histology. The slices have little relevance to surgical approaches to the shoulder area, but the technique is of considerable value in the interpretation of two-dimensional images. As such, this is essentially a teaching tool in radiology. This CD ROM is of considerable value in the interpretation of two-dimensional scans, MR images and histology. The slices have little relevance to surgical approaches to the shoulder area, but the technique is of considerable value in the interpretation of two-dimensional images. As such, this is essentially a teaching tool in radiology.


This excellent multi-author book presents the management of both primary bone and soft-tissue tumours and metastatic bone disease in one easy-to-read volume. It is divided into six sections. The first addresses 'principles' but also includes chapters on cellular and molecular biology and chemotherapy. The next two sections concentrate on the management of both benign and malignant bone tumours. I particularly liked the section on benign tumours which includes an essay on 'adjuvants and filling materials' that brings together the known literature in one succinct chapter. In the section devoted to malignant bone tumours, the role of chemotherapy and radiation is discussed - an important read for the FRCS Orth candidate.

The various surgical techniques for reconstruction are discussed and while some, such as osteoarticular allografts, are rarely used in the UK, it is important to know what other methods are available. Individual chapters cover surgical reconstruction on a regional basis. Two chapters are devoted to the biology of prostheses and the complications that sometimes follow. Here, there is little reference to the extensive well-documented European literature available on this subject which is a significant weakness of this work. Increasing numbers of surgeons, even in North America, are using prostheses in preference to osteoarticular allografts. These chapters should be expanded in any future edition.

Section five deals with the investigation, staging and treatment of soft-tissue sarcoma. The roles of both chemotherapy and radiotherapy are thoroughly discussed in relation to and the timing of surgery. I very much enjoyed reading this section, containing as it does the finest pictures in a book with an admirable standard of illustration.

The final section concentrates on metastatic bone disease and its surgical management, laid out on a regional basis. The easy instructional style is ideally suited both to the requirements of the candidate for higher specialist examinations and also to those of every surgeon in clinical practice so that he or she may know the needs, possibilities and dangers of treatment and whether to refer such pathological problems.


The striking title of this volume will surely catch the eye of those of us who are called upon to report and predict on the numerous appellants before the courts. No longer does the judiciary accept the personal opinion of an experienced practitioner, but demands evidence in the form of scientific publication in peer-reviewed journals and textbooks. Statistics with standard deviations and survivorship figures are as critically examined in open court as in any paper proffered to the Journal for publication. In this book Drs Gunzburg and Szpalski provide the evidence and expose the lack of it in certain areas of this frustratingly nebulous subject.

To begin with the title; some use the word as a diagnosis and some as a description of an injury. Many would prefer its emotional picture to describe patients with pain without structural damage. Few would use the term to describe a fracture dislocation of the cervical spine.

In an excellent introduction Professor Nickolai Bogduk calls whiplash "an irony of musculoskeletal medicine, depending upon opinion rather than science". The book contains many references to the Quebec Task Force (QTF) which was set up to redress the balance by careful study and meta-analysis, but it discovered, as have so many others who have used this technique, that the literature contains too few hard data for reliable analysis. Only 300 papers out of 10 000 publications give reliable and relevant statistics. The QTF withdrew into consensus and produced a report as soft and woolly as any.

In this volume, the world's experts have been marshalled to provide as much evidence and comment as is possible. Careful editing has given a uniform clarity of syntax so that every statement and every paradox are plainly understood and available for refutation. There is no attempt to provide a homogeneous conclusion but rather the editors have approximated conflicting opinions. The theme of the book is to call for more research, more critical evaluation, more lateral thinking and a more profound and sensitive system of investigation in search of lesions which are not demonstrable by standard techniques. Repeated negative investigations do not prove normality. To quote Bogduk again "No matter how intangible or how bizarre they may seem the symptoms of whiplash are real... denying this reality is as much a contributor to the problem as the injuries themselves".

The book is comprehensively laid out to cover basic sciences, a definition of the whiplash injury, neurological and psychological consequences, treatment modalities and surgery. The final chapter covers issues of accountability and prevention with contributions.
from lawyers, automobile designers and economists. Statistics in relation to the last point reveal that whiplash is a major financial item for both lawyers and physicians; would that our contribution before the courts was of greater value and more securely based. The book contains all the most reliable up-to-date statistics to give medical opinion some semblance of authority. No experience is more humiliating than to have ignorance revealed and displayed in public in open court. Nevertheless, having read the works of these contributors, a medical expert can state with confidence how profound is the global ignorance of science. To understand that is the first step towards knowledge.

Having read the book, the reader will be conscious of unanswered questions. Why is the condition virtually unknown in relatively underdeveloped Lithuania? Why does the condition often develop after a significant interval of time - days, certainly, weeks, often? Why does the damage not follow the impact sustained in dodgem cars or in football, especially with the oblong-shaped ball? Why do subjects in car accidents who suffer multiple injuries, including fractures of several long bones, not have this protracted condition? Why are the severity and persistence of whiplash symptoms in inverse relationship to the momentum of impact? Why do people who have been rendered unconscious by the severity of the injury not suffer lasting symptoms in the neck?

Indeed, the basis of our failure to understand is ignorance of the natural history of so-called degenerative conditions of the cervical spine. How often have we seen radiological changes without symptoms and severe symptoms without radiological changes? Where lesions of physical anatomy fail to explain pain, psychological explanations are invited; yet in this book Radanov et al, in a distillation of his profound work on this subject, found no significant correlation between various psychological groups and the severity and persistence of symptoms. Their data indicate that “psychological symptoms in post-traumatic conditions are not the cause but rather the consequence of somatic symptoms”.

Surgery is less well served in this book. In Chapter 23 we read that whiplash sufferers can be divided into four groups based on symptoms and signs but it is hard to accept that surgical treatment is recommended for all of them.

None of us should present ourselves in court without the information available in this book. Not only are we required to quote in written reports, but to answer verbatim questions put by counsel and judge who seek information which we may not always be able to give.

Michael Laurence.


I defy any surgeon interested in the hand to resist buying this book once he starts to leaf through its pages. Dr James Strickland of Indianapolis has taken on the editorship of the latest contribution to ‘Master Techniques in Orthopaedic Surgery’, a ten-volume series of atlases designed to present explicit descriptions of surgical techniques and indications by acknowledged American masters. How well he has achieved his stated aims! By intention, only controversial and technically demanding procedures are included, but every topic covered is done so meticulously, and in depth.

This book is much more than an atlas. A common format for each chapter gives a repeatable pattern of information which is easy for the reader to assimilate. Surgical indications, preoperative planning, operative technique, postoperative management, complications and illustrative case reports are included in every chapter with short lists of recommended reading. The authors have had their texts enhanced by beautifully clear line drawings by Gary Schnitz, the Medical Illustrator of the Indiana Hand Centre, whose contribution is outstanding. As if this was not enough their credentials have been further tested to provide detailed step-operative photographs to back up the message of the line drawings.

It is perhaps not appropriate to extol any one author’s contribution over another, but I benefited especially from reading the chapter on the surgery of cerebral palsy and the tetraplegic hand, topics which are not well covered on this side of the Atlantic. Fracture fixation, the congenital hand, Dupuytren’s disease, chronic arthritis and flexor tendon surgery are comprehensively included.

It is hard to criticise this work except to say that I would like more of it. It is very much a personal book which reflects the Editor’s ability to persuade certain of his colleagues to divulge extensively their surgical secrets, which is perhaps why it appears incomplete. There are some trivial irritations in the text such as the advice repeated in several chapters to return the patient to the recovery ward after surgery, but these do not in any way detract from the pleasure of reading this beautifully presented and illustrated volume.

It deserves a place on anyone’s shelf and is essential for the Postgraduate Centre library.

David Nairn.


This is an excellent book. It enjoys the very high quality of illustration which is customarily found in Springer publications. I consider it to be a required bench book in any department of radiology or orthopaedics which deals with children.

It covers, as one would expect, infection, trauma and bone tumours. This is preceded by a treatise on the techniques of scanning, together with normal appearances. While the book is primarily devoted to scintigraphic appearances, there is an appropriate account of the advantages and disadvantages of scintigraphy and the importance of the role of other imaging in the context of each case.

The book is authoritative, well written, well illustrated and well referenced. It is easy to find the conditions one wishes to study. It is a production of very high quality and should be available to orthopaedic departments for reference. It is good value for money and has been a pleasure to review.

Helen Carty.


Wood Jones provided an interesting perspective on this subject: “if there be a human member in which we may justly take pride without laying ourselves open to a charge of self adulation that member is the big toe”. Here is a short monograph of only four chapters devoted to this most important digit. It provides up-to-date advice on all the common problems accompanied by excellent illustrations.

THE JOURNAL OF BONE AND JOINT SURGERY
There is extensive cover of 'turf toe' which is an acute injury of the first metatarsophalangeal joint, particularly related to American football. Topics other than injury include hallux valgus and rigidus and the ubiquitous sesamoid. It is interesting to note that the arthroscope can be used in the treatment of this relatively small joint.

Overall, this is a brief, precise dissertation which will be of interest to all who treat the foot, be it with pleasure or reluctance.

Leslie Kleenerman.


This glossy multiauthor book describes a series of individual techniques used in the management of shoulder disorders. As such its title is apt; it is not a comprehensive textbook of shoulder surgery. It is well presented, however, and the text complements the good line drawings, making it easy to understand each individual author's technique.

The layout is well planned, with sections dealing with different pathological processes. There is a major emphasis on the treatment of instability followed by that of disorders of the rotator cuff. The section dealing with arthroplasty is disappointing; only one type of humeral component is described. Surely other types of prosthetic replacement and operative approach could have been included.

Each chapter is prefaced by a brief summary of the condition being treated and the surgical indications for each procedure. This has led to some repetition and could have been avoided by an introductory chapter in each section describing the advantages and disadvantages of the various methods of treatment, followed by the individual surgical technique and rehabilitation programme of each unit. The sections describing the rehabilitation programmes could also be more informative, since this is an essential part of a good functional outcome.

I found this book interesting since it has given me tips about different operations without having to visit the surgeon concerned. As such it is a valuable tool for shoulder surgeons, and trainees who wish to widen their experience of techniques will also benefit from it. It is a useful addition to books on shoulder surgery, but it is not the definitive text.

B. G. Bolton-Maggs.


The orthopaedic literature is not short of books on the subject of this title. Do we need another, and can 350 pages, although most generously, even brilliantly illustrated, really cover the subject?

The profusion of writing on the hip has reached the point of engagement. The tyro who is obliged to peruse the literature fully would never have time to operate, or even be able to choose between the conflicting and contradictory instructions from acknowledged experts as to which procedure should be done and how. None can deny the need for critical scrutiny of every treatment, but to wait for statistical analysis or worse still meta-analysis, to allow clinical decisions to be made will lead to paralysing procrastination, or as golfers might call it, the surgical 'yips'.

This book, one of the series of 'Master Techniques', gives the answers to every common problem in the adult hip. Its five parts cover surgical approaches, fractures, arthroplasty, both primary and revision, and alternatives to arthroplasty. The Editor makes no attempt at exhaustive coverage but provides the stored knowledge and experience of America's most renowned hip surgeons, with practical details of their unproven ingenuity and artistry. Through clear descriptive writing emerge the thoughts of surgeons who seek to bring living tissues to normal function, not just technically replace a mechanical part.

Dr Sledge is to be congratulated for marshalling priceless information and advice in order to instruct the novice and thereby extricate him from the difficulties which in a surgical lifetime he is bound to encounter. This volume is a major contribution to the art and craft of orthopaedics.

Michael Laurence.


Brevity attracts the eye and this title will hold much promise for half of all orthopaedic surgeons, but which group is the publisher's target? The trainee in accident and emergency or orthopaedics may have his anticipatory excitement dulled by the first section of the book on prevention, controversies in air safety and how to avoid major disasters such as earthquakes, droughts etc. Section 2 contains features on those engaged in the organisation and training of paramedics. Section 3 sinks into the politics of trauma care.

I hope that those in search of instruction will get to Sections 4 and 5 in which there is good practical information on a number of special topics, but it is very far from a comprehensive text. Parts focusing on blast injuries and landmines confirm that the individual authors are leaders in special fields. The volume then deteriorates through book reviews revealing the fact that this is not a book as such but rather the first edition of a journal planned to be published quarterly.

The final chapters are superficially devoted to history (potted obituaries of H. O. Thomas and Abraham Colles) which is quaint in a forward-looking production. The final offering, anecdotal wanderings of a failed GP, now a 'resting' actor, raises questions about the seriousness of this work.

Michael Laurence.


The senior authors have a vast experience of this subject and succeed in providing a "comprehensive guide to the prevention and management of baseball injuries". Most of the chapters are devoted to conditions affecting the arm, but the book is overly comprehensive and includes chapters on dermatology, smokeless tobacco and even infectious diseases! It is divided into six sections covering biomechanics, traumatology, rehabilitation and prevention.

Baseball results in many disorders of the shoulder in common with other athletic pursuits which stress this joint at the extremes of movement with very large repetitive forces. The chapters on throwing cover this aspect in considerable detail and include the
difficult concepts of impingement and instability, alone and in conjunction. The chapter on examination of the shoulder is good but the following short chapter on the elbow is weak with no illustrations. Those on arthroscopic surgery are disappointing with pictures of poor quality. There is an impression that this book has taken a rather long time to produce and that in the process much is approaching obsolescence; for example, comments such as ‘arthroscopic acromioplasty is gaining popularity’ in the section on impingement.

It will be of great interest to those providing management of healthcare in baseball players, but I question how valuable it is to the orthopaedic surgeon with only an occasional encounter with the throwing athlete. In addition, the necessity to be comprehensive has limited the section on the shoulder to a fairly basic level which is already available in many subspecialist textbooks.

Michael Laurence.

Books received

