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# Book Reviews

## Critiques de livres

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**ATLAS OF SPINE SURGERY.** Robert B. Winter, John E. Lonstein, F. Denis and Michael D. Smith. 569 pp. Illust. W.B. Saunders Company; Harcourt Brace & Company Canada Ltd., Toronto. 1995. \$218. ISBN 0-7216-2958-X

This is an atlas of common, well-established spinal surgical procedures from a well-respected group of spine surgeons working at a single centre. They have achieved their stated goal: to produce an atlas for orthopedic trainees at the resident level and above that illustrates spinal surgical procedures. However, the book does not function as a reference and, in fact, has no bibliography. Similarly, there is no discussion or review of the indications and contraindications or complications of spinal surgery.

The book is divided into 15 chapters, based on anatomic approaches, with several additional chapters on specific topics such as spondylolisthesis and myelomeningocele. Each chapter consists of a set of illustrations with accompanying narrative text that relates directly to each illustration. Each section depicts a specific surgical procedure.

I found the illustrations clear, concise and realistic. A variety of illustrative techniques are chosen, including cross-sectional, three-dimensional and schematic figures. All figures are in black and white with nerve structures occasionally highlighted in yellow.

The strength of this text lies in its very descriptive illustrations, the narrative style of the text and the division of each chapter into sections dealing with specific surgical procedures. The text is filled with helpful technical points, which are practical and realis-

tic. Two chapters that are mandatory reading for orthopedic trainees are the ones on application of a halo and on taking bone grafts.

A daunting task facing an author contemplating the production of a text on spinal surgery is the overwhelming variety of spinal implants currently available. The authors of this book have circumvented the problem by describing the implantation of generic devices in appropriate chapters.

Although this atlas describes established spinal surgical procedures well, there is too much emphasis on some of the less-current elective surgical techniques and a relatively sparse covering of spinal surgery for trauma. For example, there are 31 pages devoted to Harrington instrumentation and only 18 pages to the correction of thoracolumbar fractures and dislocations.

Overall, I found this book a practical, useful guide to the performance of basic and advanced spinal surgical procedures, and I enjoyed its concise, clear structure. I believe this book would augment the library of senior orthopedic residents and fellows and of orthopedic surgeons in general who have an interest in spinal surgery. I believe that the authors have accomplished these stated goals and I have no hesitation in recommending the book for this purpose.

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**NEW TECHNIQUES IN RECONSTRUCTIVE UROLOGY.** Topics in Clinical Urology Series. Edited by Jack W. McAninch. 149 pp. Illust. Igaku-Shoin Medical Publishers Inc., New York. 1996. \$94. ISBN 0-89640-281-9

This is the first volume in a new series of publications from Igaku-Shoin Medical Publishers. It is a short, multi-authored book, with numerous large, clear illustrations and could comfortably be read over a single weekend. It is directed to residents-in-training and practising general urologists. Those with specialized training in reconstructive urology will find this book too limited. Although it is an excellent slim volume, the title perhaps should have referred to *a selection of* new techniques in reconstructive urology, since the field of reconstructive surgery covered is limited, involving the anterior urethra, kidney, bowel segments used in bladder reconstruction and the skin of the scrotum and penis.

The section on the anterior urethra contains three chapters. The first, by Gerald Jordan, deals with strictures of the fossa navicularis. There is a brief, but useful, summary of techniques available to deal with this difficult problem and a more detailed description of his very successful ventral transverse skin island procedure. The following chapter by Kennon Miller and Jack McAninch describes their modifications of the onlay island flap urethroplasty for complex anterior urethral strictures, and the following chapter describes Duckett's onlay island flap procedure for hypospadias. Laurence Baskin and John Duckett produce a compelling argument for preservation of the urethral plate and the use of island patches instead of is-

land tubes in hypospadias patients with ventral penile curvature.

The section on the kidney contains three chapters. Methods of renal reconstruction after major renal injury by McAninch is a good summary for residents-in-training but is somewhat biased toward a more aggressive surgical approach to renal injuries than we are accustomed to in the majority of Canadian centres. Novick draws from his large personal experience in the chapter on renal sparing surgery for renal cell carcinoma and gives an excellent summary of contemporary surgical techniques in this situation. The chapter on endoscopic management of ureteropelvic junction obstruction by Arthur Smith and his endourology fellow is rather disappointing. Although this chapter covers Smith's personal approach to the subject, this approach has not changed over the past few years, and there is little emphasis on recent developments.

Two chapters constitute the section on the use of bowel segments in bladder reconstruction. They cover the subject well, and if more detail is required about individual techniques, the chapter on orthotopic bladder replacement by Aboseif, Cho and Carroll contains 45 references. The indications and techniques of bladder augmentation by Anthony Stone is concise and easy to read, but there is little on indications or the urodynamic assessment of patients.

The final section on scrotum and penis consists of a single 14-page

chapter by Armenatas and McAninch on the use of skin grafts in external genital reconstruction. This contains an excellent, concise section on the various types of skin graft and their properties, with brief coverage of their use in penile and scrotal skin loss.

In summary, this book is concise and easy to read, with large, clear illustrations. It covers a limited part of reconstructive urology. Future volumes of *Topics in Clinical Urology* include complications of interventional techniques, pediatric urology for the general urologist, new developments in the management of urolithiasis, new diagnostic tests and medical and surgical management of prostate cancer.

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**OPERATIVE ARTHROSCOPY.** 2nd edition. Editor-in-Chief: John B. McGinty. Section Editors: Richard B. Caspari, Robert W. Jackson and Gary G. Pochling. 1296 pp. Illust. Lippincott-Raven Publishers, Philadelphia. 1996. \$265 (US). ISBN 0-7817-0294-1 (order code 2843)

The second edition of this textbook is an excellent, comprehensive overview of arthroscopic surgery. It is organized into a series of sections

including basic principles and the various joints. Each section is broken down into appropriate chapters.

The book is well written. There are numerous colour photographs that add to the text and demonstrate the techniques beautifully. The selection of colour and black-and-white photographs contributes much to the value of this work.

The authors are to be complimented on their varied description of alternative operative techniques rather than simple author preference. However, the results are not as well covered. The references are up to date, and the book does provide a basis for the state-of-the-art knowledge.

Overall, this book is beautifully produced and is a valuable reference text. All orthopedic surgeons practising arthroscopic surgery will benefit from it. It should be available in all hospital libraries because arthroscopic surgery is now an important component of orthopedic training. The book will also be of interest to those pursuing careers in general practice. Junior residents would benefit from using the volume as a reference, and senior residents and fellows with an interest in arthroscopy or sports medicine will find this book invaluable.

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