

Book Reviews

Critiques de livres

STENTS IN ENDOVASCULAR SURGERY. BASIC CONCEPTS AND TECHNIQUES. Frank J. Criado. 124 pp. Illust. Future Publishing Company Inc., Armonk, NY. 1996. US\$49.00

This book is a technical manual for vascular specialists (mainly vascular surgeons) who would like to start doing endovascular surgery or expand their endovascular expertise. Specifically, the text concerns the use of endovascular stents in the arterial and venous circulation.

The book covers the general topics of equipment, basic angioplasty techniques and basic stent types. There are separate chapters devoted to stent techniques in each vascular territory and a useful section on complications and trouble shooting.

The illustrations are excellent and complement the text well. They provide a step-by-step technical approach to a wide variety of applications of endovascular stents. The technical descriptions are accurate and complete.

From a negative standpoint, percutaneous angioplasty is not discussed in much detail and the use of stented endoluminal grafts for the treatment of aortic aneurysms — one of the most important new endovascular therapies — is not covered. Also, the book digresses into political discussion on the relative merits of vascular surgeons versus radiologists performing endovascular procedures, and this detracts from the overall value of the book.

On the whole, this is a good “how to” manual for vascular surgeons in this new area of treatment.

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MINIMAL ACCESS SURGERY IN ONCOLOGY. Edited by James G. Geraghty, Howard L. Young and Jonathan M. Sackier. Associate editors: H. Stephan Stoldt and Riccardo A. Audisio. 173 pp. Illust. Greenwich Medical Media Ltd, London, UK; Oxford University Press Canada, Toronto. 1998. Can\$187.95. ISBN 1-900151-022

On reviewing this book I was pleasantly surprised to find that it examines the current evidence for a minimalist approach to a variety of tumour types rather than addressing technical issues alone. As such, this text will be of value primarily to surgical oncologists as they decide on the utility of a particular laparoscopic approach in the management of specific tumours in their practice. Nevertheless general surgeons specializing in laparoscopy will also find this book enjoyable since it will help them decide whether or not they should offer certain procedures to their local medical oncologists.

The book has an impressive list of contributors from both sides of the Atlantic, providing an unbiased view of the current state of the art of laparoscopic surgery. It comprises 13 chapters. The initial section deals with the effect of laparoscopy on immune function and the biology of cancer. The ensuing chapters review the literature on the use of laparoscopy in a variety of malignant conditions including pancreatic, gastroesophageal and biliary cancers. There is an excellent chapter on the concerns and benefits of laparoscopic colectomy, in particular the evidence of port-site recurrences. The role of video-assisted surgery in thoracic and gynecologic oncology is explored. Finally, a chapter is devoted to the role and technique of sentinel-node mapping in melanoma and breast cancer.

In conclusion, I found this book readable, containing good illustrations and an exhaustive review of the literature. It is up to date and would be useful to those interested in better understanding the role of minimal access surgery in oncology.

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SURGERY OF CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE. PEDIATRIC CARDIAC CARE CONSORTIUM 1984–1995. Perspectives in Pediatric Cardiology, Volume 6. Edited by James H. Moller and Paul F. Dwan. 391 pp. Illust. Futura Publishing Company, Inc., Armonk NY. 1998. US\$97. ISBN 0-87993-678-9

The monographs in the series *Perspectives in Pediatric Cardiology* provide an in-depth account of various topics relating to congenital heart disease. Volume 6 in this series presents a detailed, comprehensive report about cardiac surgical results from the database of the 40 collaborating North American institutions that make up the Pediatric Cardiac Care Consortium (PCCC).

Introductory chapters describe the history and goals of the consortium, the relevance and rate of occurrence of cardiac malformations and the extensive database on 27 000 cardiac operations and 1500 cardiac catheter interventions. The following individual chapters cover virtually all cardiac malformations, beginning with a brief description of the clinical entity and a short history of operative procedures. The focus of each chapter is a detailed analysis of current results compiled

from the PCCC database, which now reviews information on 8000 patients per year. The information presented includes operative death rates for various patient subsets and the factors that affect these death rates as well as length-of-stay data. The format of each chapter is surprisingly uniform despite the multiauthored nature of the book.

This book provides invaluable information that is not available from any other source. It is clearly not intended for medical students or even postgraduate trainees but will be invaluable for pediatric cardiologists, cardiac surgeons and institutions by providing them with valid information by which to compare their own results.

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SURGICAL APPROACHES TO THE SPINE. Todd J. Albert, Richard A. Balderston and Bruce E. Northrup. 224 pp. Illust. W.B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia; Harcourt Brace & Co. Canada, Ltd., Toronto. 1997. Can\$188. ISBN 0-7216-4554-2

The development of spine surgery over the last 15 years has been erratic owing to the explosion in sophisticated imaging methods, which have allowed more precise diagnoses, to the progress in anesthesia techniques for these complex conditions and to an unsurpassed development of new devices to correct, reconstruct and stabilize the diseased, deformed and injured spine. In terms of anatomy and surgical approaches, there has been nothing substantially new in the past few years, except the introduction of

minimally invasive techniques. In this sense this book deals with solid knowledge, which can be presented in different forms.

The book is directed to surgeons who specialize in spine surgery and need to approach the spine at any level and anteriorly, posteriorly or from the side. The fact that the book contains contributions from 22 authors demonstrates how complex spine surgery has become, with further subspecialization into specific disorders or regions of the spine, creating experts for specific approaches.

Although the content of this book is established knowledge, the way this knowledge is communicated to the reader has some merit. All chapters have a useful section in which the complications of each approach are mentioned. The book is organized "vertically"; that is, the approaches are presented from top to bottom of the spine. The book begins with a chapter of the relevant surgical anatomy. However, it does not include such a chapter for the thoracic or, more importantly, the lumbar and sacral spine. The vertical organization is not followed for the second and third chapters, where the upper cervical spine would logically come before the middle and the lower cervical spine. The chapter on the cervical spine includes the mandibular splitting approach, which is not included in most spine surgery textbooks and is a definite advantage of this book.

Unlike other chapters, chapter 8 includes the technical aspects of fixation techniques, information that does not belong in this book. Unfortunately no chapter deals with the approach to the sacrum from either the back or the front, both of which are important aspects for surgeons who manage tumours in this region. The anatomy section in the chapter on the posterior lumbar approach is superfi-

cial and does not go beyond the level of medical student knowledge.

The book is easy to read and gives a rounded view about spinal approaches with the exceptions already noted and the usual problems relating to multiauthored books. The book will certainly be helpful to those who are training in spine surgery and to the experienced spine surgeon who may have occasion to refer to it.

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VARICOSE VEINS, VENOUS DISORDERS, AND LYMPHATIC PROBLEMS IN THE LOWER LIMBS. David J. Tibbs, David C. Sabiston Jr., Mark G. Davies, Peter S. Mortimer and John H. Scurr. 254 pp. Illust. Oxford University Press, London, England; Oxford University Press, Canada, Toronto. 1997. Can\$268.95. ISBN 0-19-262762-7

People with an interest in venous disease will be excited about this new book by Mr. Tibbs and Drs. Sabiston, Davies, Mortimer and Scurr.

The book features superb coloured illustrations and exceptional diagrams explaining venous physiology, anatomy and pathology and the management of venous disease. This book is all-inclusive in its description of all congenital and acquired venous disease and discussion of disease management. Details and description of deep valvular repair and valve transplantation are minimal.

Venous thromboembolic disease and lymphatic problems are covered in much less detail than the coverage of venous problems.

The cost of this book will discourage many potential buyers.

This is a well written and comprehensive book covering venous problems, with accurate, interesting informative illustrations. It will be useful as a reference for general and vascular surgical divisions. It would also be an ideal gift for a graduating vascular resident or fellow.

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CAMPBELL'S UROLOGY. 3 volumes. 7th edition. Edited by Patrick C. Walsh, Alan B. Retik, E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr. and Alan J. Wein. 1153 pp (vol. 1), 1099 pp (vol. 2), 1173 (vol. 3). Illust. W.B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia; Harcourt Brace & Co. Canada, Ltd., Toronto. 1997. Can\$593 (3-vol. set). ISBN 0-7216-4462-7 (vol. 1), 0-7216-4463-5 (vol. 2), 0-7216-4464-3 (vol 3); 0-7216-4461-9 (3-vol. set)

Since the first edition of *Campbell's Urology* was published in 1954, this 3-volume text has been regarded as the bible of urology. It is basic, essential reading for urology residents throughout the world.

Reflecting the dynamic evolution and rapid changes in urology in the past decade, this seventh edition, which appears 5 years after the last one, has undergone major revision and expansion. The editors have added 22 new chapters and over 30 new contributing authors, all experts in their fields. The editors have tried to make the book user friendly. Within the text of most chapters the authors have used bold type to emphasize essential concepts. In clinical chapters, many management algorithms and decision trees

have been included, which concisely summarize decision-making processes that often seem cumbersome when described in conventional text.

The book is arranged by organ system. Each system includes chapters on physiology, pathophysiology, clinical presentation and then both surgical and nonsurgical management. These sections constitute concise but comprehensive and, for the most part, clearly written mini textbooks.

Until recently by the time new ideas, discoveries or techniques had progressed from initial journal publication to hard-cover textbooks, these ideas were no longer fresh or new. Not so with this book: even Sildenafil is mentioned in the section on erectile dysfunction.

The depth of coverage is perhaps well illustrated by the introductory chapter of volume 1, which reviews basic molecular genetics. Similarly, the excellent oncology section is introduced by a brave and successful attempt to summarize recent developments in basic cancer biology, a daunting challenge for any author.

The entire section on pediatric urology is generally excellent, although some chapters on relatively rare conditions such as prune-belly syndrome seem to be disproportionately long.

The completely revised section on urinary lithiasis is outstanding. There is a detailed review of the many minimally invasive techniques that have been developed in recent years. Likewise, the section on endourology is superb. Finally, the section on urologic surgery is beautifully illustrated, comprehensive, up to date and well balanced when controversial approaches are discussed.

This seventh edition of *Campbell's Urology* is the best yet. It belongs in every practising urologist's library, every hospital's surgical library and continues to be a *sine qua non* for all urology residents.

CAMPBELL'S UROLOGY — STUDY GUIDE.

Edited by Patrick C. Walsh, Alan B. Retik, E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr. and Alan J. Wein. 447 pp. Illust. W.B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia; Harcourt Brace & Co. Canada, Ltd., Toronto. 1997. Can\$74.95. ISBN 0-7216-6020-7

The editors of the seventh edition of *Campbell's Urology* have simultaneously published this parallel study to provide a structured approach to formal didactic education for residents, program directors and practising urologists. The authors of each chapter have provided both questions and answers based on the material in the chapters. The structure of these questions varies, some authors providing very simple questions based on the text, requiring a word-for-word regurgitation of the text, other authors formulating questions in the form of problem-solving clinical situations based on the material in their chapter. The study guide follows the textbook chapter by chapter and provides answers immediately after the questions.

Although somewhat uneven in the construction of the questions, this study guide is a valuable tool for the urologist-in-training in assessing his or her ability to understand or retain what has been read. The questions, numbering over 3000, represent a significant additional contribution by the authors. I highly recommend this study guide to residents or board-eligible urologists preparing for certification examinations. Every program director will want a copy as well.

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