

# 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