
Book Reviews

Critiques de livres

ATLAS OF UROLOGIC SURGERY. 2nd edition. Frank Hinman, Jr. 1172 pp. Illust. W.B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia; Harcourt Brace & Co. Canada, Ltd., Toronto. 1998. Can\$293. ISBN 0-7216-6404-0

This second edition of the *Atlas of Urologic Surgery* fulfils its objective admirably. The atlas is intended for the urologic surgeon to be examined before an infrequently performed procedure or one that is being attempted for the first time. It is meant to be “a practical book that instructs, guides, reminds, and warns.” It does just that. The text is clear, succinct and accompanies the illustrations that depict every critical step of the different urologic procedures. The author is an artist himself, so the illustrations made by his artist colleague, Paul Stempen, are not just pretty, they are clear and instructive. Almost every “open” procedure is described, but the atlas does not cover endoscopic procedures, a prostate resection, for example, or a percutaneous stone extraction, procedures that are a large part of general urologic practice.

Although I examined every page of the book, I chose to look especially carefully at 2 procedures: radical retropubic prostatectomy, a procedure that I carry out frequently, and total perineal prostatectomy, a procedure I have never performed. I didn't learn anything from the description of the retropubic prostatectomy, but I thought it detailed the procedure well and could prove useful to a surgeon who seldom does the procedure. I thought I could carry out a total perineal prostatectomy by following the steps described in the text.

The atlas is the brain child of a famous urologist, the son of a famous urologist. The specialty has a number of notable families like the father-son

Hinmans; for example, the Leadbetter, Scardino and Whitmore families. In Canada, we have the Klotz and Metcalf families. How much is this due to genes and how much to the environment? The nature-nurture question is always a provocative one, and this work of art rekindles that question.

This atlas will be extremely valuable to those for whom it is intended.

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ATLAS OF BREAST DISEASE MANAGEMENT. 50 ILLUSTRATIVE CASES. A.J. Evans, A.R.M. Wilson, R.W. Blamey, J.F.R. Robertson, I.O. Ellis and C.W. Elston (The Breast Unit, Nottingham City Hospital, Nottingham, UK). 146 pp. W.B. Saunders Company, Ltd., London, UK; Harcourt Brace & Co. Canada, Ltd., Toronto. 1998. Can\$130. ISBN 0-7020-2252-7

Designed for surgeons, radiologists and pathologists who deal with the clinical diagnosis and treatment of breast disease, this book will also serve as a good review for residents preparing for the Royal College examinations.

The book begins by outlining the principles of a multidisciplinary approach to the diagnosis and treatment of breast disease. The exercise of these principles is then illustrated with 50 interesting cases. The protocols that are followed were developed in Nottingham, UK, and they emphasize the teamwork required among surgeon, radiologist and pathologist. The first section, which would be extremely useful

to clinic planners and managers, is a detailed description of a complex network of clinics and their workings. This is followed by a series of classification schemes that are used to generate elaborate algorithms for the clinical management of the various diseases that are encountered in clinical practice.

The book is extremely well written, with a British style and, as promised in the title, the cases clearly illustrate the basic principles set out in the first part of the text. There is a European flavour to the terminology and some of the procedures; “double-node biopsy” is one example. Many potential clinical pitfalls are highlighted effectively. There is an abundance of illustrations with superb images of mammograms, and histologic and ultrasonographic findings. The organization and the presentation are exceptional.

On the downside, although the opening chapters emphasize the importance of teamwork, there is no mention of involvement of the oncologist or the radiotherapist. In our clinic, these specialists play an integral role. The captions accompanying the illustrations are all repeated in the text, which makes for inefficient reading. I was left wondering about the approaches to some of the cases. For example, in some cases both fine-needle aspiration and core biopsies were done (case 2). The index was not extensive, and after some time casting about the introductory section I was unable to find an explanation of an “H-score.” In some cases the clinical decisions are well referenced with evidence being given for the decisions made (case 8). But many other cases are not referenced, and occasionally dogmatic decisions are made (case 9). It was unclear as to why ultrasonography was used as a guide for palpable lesions (cases 9 and 10). The reason why a

core biopsy needed to be obtained on an exophytic lesion was not obvious, since biopsy with a scalpel would have sufficed (case 19). I do not advocate ultrasonography with simple palpable cysts as the authors do in case 20. Also, it was not clear why preoperative mammography was omitted in case 27. There were other cases in which ultrasonography was used when it would not change the management, and as a general principle we do not use it in all cases.

In spite of these differences of opinion, I consider this beautifully illustrated book to be a very useful review of a broad variety of clinical cases of breast disease. The organization of the book makes it particularly easy to read because it can be picked up and put down as often as necessary without the reader losing the train of thought.

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THE BREAST. COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT OF BENIGN AND MALIGNANT DISEASES.

Volume 1 and volume 2. 2nd edition. Edited by Kirby I. Bland and Edward Copeland III. 1631 pp. Illust. W.B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia; Harcourt Brace & Co. Canada, Ltd., Toronto. 1998. Can\$338. ISBN 0-7216-6656-6

The editors of this book are prominent surgical oncologists. They have recruited an impressive array of authors who are usually the leading investigators in the area covered. Although there are adequate chapters on advanced disease and adjuvant therapy, these constitute a relatively small part of the overall text.

As suggested by the title, the book

offers a large section on benign disease, an area that is poorly covered by most standard texts. It is also a weak area for most surgical residents because they have limited exposure to outpatient clinics. It is of course a large part of most breast surgeons' clinical practice. The chapters on recurrent breast abscess and mastalgia are particularly well written. The chapter on male gynecomastia is less well done.

Despite the book's comprehensive nature, there are some disappointing weaknesses. The book contains a large volume of data on the genetics of breast cancer but surprisingly little on prophylactic mastectomy. I was unable to find much information on lobular carcinoma, for example, or on breast cancer treatment in the geriatric population. The chapter on prognostic variables was also a bit disappointing.

One of the book's strengths is the up-to-date information on recent "hot topics" and the authoritative chapters by the leading surgeons in the field. For example, there is an excellent chapter on surgical treatment without axillary dissection by Cady and another on sentinel node biopsy by Guiliano. There is also an up-to-date chapter on angiogenesis by Folkman, outlining the recent exciting data on endostatin and angiostatin. The chapter on mammography is well illustrated and of outstanding quality.

Overall, this is probably the most definitive text on breast surgery available and an important reference for all residents and clinicians practising breast surgery. I confess that I did not have the first edition on my bookshelf. That was a mistake.

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OXFORD TEXTBOOK OF SPORTS MEDICINE.

2nd edition. Edited by Mark Harries, Clyde Williams, William D. Stanish and Lyle J. Micheli. 957 pp. Illust. Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK; Oxford University Press Canada, Toronto. 1998. Can\$269.50. ISBN 0-19-262717-1

The 4 physician editors of this textbook have a well-recognized interest in sports medicine. Virtually all chapters have been updated or rewritten for this edition, which will be of major interest to all of those who are concerned with or who have made a career in caring for the injured athlete. It will provide an ideal knowledge base for students of sports medicine, particularly those who are university based.

The text begins with a philosophical view of man as an athlete by Per-Olaf Astrand. This is a particularly interesting chapter, which looks at the athlete from evolutionary and biologic viewpoints. It asks why sports records are improving and answers this in the changes made in many areas, from physiological to psychological. The marked changes in training methods, techniques, rules and equipment are emphasized.

The first 400 pages relate to the scientific basis for sports medicine and include detailed treatises on cardiorespiratory responses to exercise and training, adaptations in skeletal muscle with endurance programs and anaerobic metabolism during prolonged and high-intensity exercise. It provides a scientific basis for nutrition and fluid electrolyte replacement after exercise. There is a new chapter on nutritional and ergogenic aids and supplements to optimal exercise performance. Eating disorders among athletes are discussed and programs recommended. There is an excellent section on kinesthesiology and anthropometry and the assessment of

NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR LIVER RESECTIONS.

Edited by Renzo Dionigi and Juan R. Madariaga. 268 pp. Illust. Karger Landes Systems, Basel, Switzerland. 1997. US\$98. ISBN 3-8055-6564-X

Written by Italian doctors in collaboration with American, Japanese and French doctors, all well known in the field of liver surgery, this book comprises 13 chapters covering 5 major topics: surgery, radiology, regeneration, chemotherapy and immunoscintigraphy. Most chapters contain an extensive reference list. The numerous figures, tables and colour plates complement the text well.

The chapter on new devices in liver resections provides an excellent overview on how to achieve hemostasis during liver resection by using various techniques (ultrasonic dissection, ultrasonic cutting, laser or water-jet dissection, and argon-beam coagulation). New approaches to interstitial therapy of hepatic tumours are well described; these include laser hyperthermia, radiofrequency electrodesiccation, interstitial radiotherapy, alcohol injection and cryotherapy.

Antonio Francavilla and colleagues have provided a good general overview of fundamental research and possible clinical implications for those interested in liver regeneration.

The chapter on diagnostic procedures and preoperative liver assessment is short, but the reader can get more detailed information from the references.

The chapter on vascular occlusion during liver resection is excellent. The authors describe the most modern techniques, underlining the advantages and disadvantages of each type of occlusion. They also describe their experience in cirrhotic patients who have liver resection using different types of vascular occlusion.

In addition to chapters on surgical technique, which include resection of the caudate lobe, biliary reconstruction during hepatectomy and living-related liver transplantation, the section on applications of laparoscopy in liver surgery provides a description of the current laparoscopic procedures and indications for laparoscopic liver resection.

The diagnostic and therapeutic benefits of intraoperative ultrasonography are presented logically but briefly.

A very brief chapter on preoperative portal embolization to increase the safety of major hepatectomies for liver tumours is written by a Japanese surgical team and includes their own experience with 54 patients. A very complete chapter dealing with the treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma

by arterial chemoembolization describes the technique using chemoembolic materials, as well as the results and pitfalls.

The reader can also find a good review on implantable systems for drug infusion in liver tumours without having much new knowledge on this subject. Finally, the authors have described their experience with radioimmunoguided surgery of the liver in 30 patients with colorectal liver metastasis. It seems to be a promising new adjunctive technique for the surgical treatment of colorectal cancer, but many problems still need to be resolved.

Overall, this book is well written and illustrated, and is easy to read. It will be most appreciated by general surgeons who have experience in liver surgery and fellows in hepatobiliary, pancreatic surgery and liver transplantation. Interventional radiologists and specialists in nuclear medicine can benefit from the chapters related to their practice.

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