

THE DIABETIC FOOT: MEDICAL AND SURGICAL MANAGEMENT. Edited by Aris-tidis Veves, John M. Giurini and Frank W. LoGerfo. 512 pp. Illust. Humana Press, Inc., Towota, NJ. 2002. US\$145. ISBN 0-89603-925-0

This book, an in-depth review of the pathophysiology, and medical and surgical treatment of the pathologic conditions found in the diabetic foot, is aimed mainly at surgeons and physicians involved in treating the diabetic foot. The majority of the authors are from the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, and the book has some extremely good chapters based on the vast experience accumulated by the diabetic clinic there. The outside authors are also experts in their fields; for example, Reiber from Seattle who contributed the chapter on epidemiology. Notable chapters include the clinical examination, biomechanics and local care of the diabetic foot and principles of treatment of the chronic wound. Two valuable chapters are the down-to-earth, sensible approach to microbiology and treatment of diabetic foot infections and a similar approach to the radiographic changes of the diabetic foot.

Although the medical side of this book is strong, the surgical side is weak apart from the chapter on vascular surgery. As a multidisciplinary disorder, there is a notable absence of input from orthopedic surgeons, and podiatrists have written chapters they are ill-qualified to write. In general, the surgical chapters are atlases of procedures and case reports without in-depth discussion into the indications and outcomes. Since up to 40% of transmetatarsal amputations fail, it is not how to perform the procedure that is important, but understanding the risks and benefits of the procedure, who should perform it, and a discussion of outcomes that are of most value.

The book lacks organization, with no particular rhyme or reason to the order of chapters. The nonoperative treatment of ulcers appears in the surgical chapters and the last chapter, footwear in the prevention of diabetic foot problems, should logically have been placed at the beginning of the book.

The book is too detailed to be of value to medical students and residents but would make a useful addition to medical school and departmental libraries. It should be part of a complete library of diabetic foot care. However, if a book on the diabetic foot is to be purchased as a single reference, there are other books with a much broader authorship that are preferable.

In summary, this book is an excellent text on the medical and nonsurgical aspects of the diabetic foot and ankle care but, with one notable exception, leaves much to be desired with respect to surgical treatment.

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BREAST CANCER: A GUIDE TO DETECTION AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY THERAPY. Edited by Michael H. Torosian. 346 pp. Illust. Humana Press, Inc., Totowa, NJ. 2002. US\$125. ISBN 089603-839-4

There are many textbooks dealing with breast disease that strive to be comprehensive. This addition, as implied in the title, focuses primarily on the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer. The contributions of the various expert authors deliver a text that is concise and readable on many levels. Because of its multidisciplinary focus this text is of interest to readers in many medical specialties, including surgery, radiology, and medical and radiation oncology.

The book is divided into 3 major sections. The first section covers a broad range of topics, including diagnosis and treatment; the second section examines specific clinical situations; and the third looks at some current controversies.

In the first section, titled "clinical management," there are 13 chapters. The first 4 of these relate to breast cancer diagnosis with those on breast imaging and breast biopsy techniques being particularly up to date and complete. The fourth chapter "clinical classifications of breast cancer" appears unnecessary and confusing. The information in this chapter is redundant and at times contradicts that of similar material covered in more detail in other chapters. For instance, M.H. Torosian, the author of this chapter, states that mastectomy is indicated for the management of Paget's disease, whereas in the following chapter on breast conservation, lumpectomy is quite legitimately stated to be an option for managing Paget's disease. In discussing the management of inflammatory breast cancer, Torosian states, inaccurately, that axillary dissection is not typically performed in patients with inflammatory carcinoma. Torosian's statement is not consistent with current standards of care in the treatment of inflammatory breast cancer. These standards are supported later in the book by other authors who advise axillary dissection in this group of patients.

The next 6 chapters examine the treatment of primary breast cancer, including surgery, ablative and reconstructive, radiation and systemic treatment. These are all excellent chapters, particularly the one (chapter 6) that looks at the use of mastectomy. Chapter 11 is a useful dissertation on the role of surgery for metastatic breast cancer. It is followed by a detailed and interesting review of molecular genetics relating to breast cancer development, which