

doubtless reflects the authors' expertise in these areas. Other areas covered in later maxims of the diagnostic section include subarachnoid hemorrhage, vasculitis, and large-vessel dissections.

The next chapters of the book deal with therapy of cerebrovascular disease. The first nine maxims in this section review general aspects of stroke management. They make the important points of avoiding overzealous control of blood pressure and maintaining normal oxygenation and blood glucose levels in the acute stroke setting. The next section deals with the management of TIAs. The maxim dealing with the medical therapy of TIAs is particularly good in that it reviews the use of antiplatelet drugs and anticoagulation. The maxim dealing with symptomatic carotid endarterectomy provides an up-to-date review of the current available topics. There is, however, no discussion on the optimal use of endarterectomy for asymptomatic cases. The next sections deal with therapeutic treatments for completed strokes. Maxim #73 deals with the use of thrombolytic agents in selected stroke cases. This maxim is now particularly important in light of the recent National Institutes of Health tissue-type plasminogen activator study. The only maxim in the book that I disagree with is maxim #75, which suggests that calcium channel blockers are useful in ischemic stroke. I believe the general consensus is that calcium channel blockers have been shown not useful in ischemic stroke and should not be recommended. Later maxims in the therapeutic chapter deal with treatment of embolic strokes and intracerebral hemorrhage. All of these maxims are again very useful with appropriate reference documentation. Additional maxims deal with relatively rare causes of stroke, including vasculitis, dissection, and venous strokes. The last part of the book deals with other medical conditions that may cause stroke, the need for early rehabilitation, and provides a clue as to where future stroke research may be going.

On balance, I found the maxims to be a useful way of presenting the current state of cerebrovascular disease diagnosis and therapy. This small pocket book can easily be read in a few evenings. Although it is far from a definitive reference book, I believe the authors have achieved their goal to "provide a book that can be read from cover to cover and will confer a solid foundation of clinical knowledge."

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Vascular access: Principles and practice, 3rd edition

Samuel Eric Wilson, St. Louis, 1996, Mosby, 312 pages, \$79.

This book is one of the original texts on vascular access and remains at the forefront of the field with this new edition. The panel of contributing authors has been expanded over the first two editions, and the book has been reorganized. The current edition presents the material in a

more useful and practical manner than earlier editions. The current volume separates chronic venous access from hemodialysis access, and presents a discussion of types of access (catheters, ports, prosthetic grafts, native fistulas) useful in the treatment of multiple diseases.

The book starts with historical development of vascular access then proceeds with basic science and patient evaluation. The middle chapters cover the multitude of procedures, and their complications, for arteriovenous and chronic and acute venous access. The final chapters discuss some new endovascular techniques and instrumentation that appear to have value, but whose precise place in the armamentarium of the vascular access surgeon is as yet undefined. Included is a chapter on peritoneal access, giving the book full coverage of dialysis access.

The chapters on management of infections, thrombolysis and transluminal angioplasty, vascular access for trauma, vascular interposition for hemodialysis, and vascular access for pediatric patients are particularly thorough and well-written. The quality of drawings and sketches is adequate throughout most of the text but disappointing in the important chapter on surgical anatomy. Some chapters refer to specific brand names of products rather than generic names. The proofreading of the text was quite good, as noted by very few spelling errors, none of which impacted the clarity of the text.

The reorganization of this edition has been great improvement over the previous editions, and at a retail price of \$79 this book is a good value. Compared to other texts it is now the most current and comprehensive. This book should be included in the library of anyone interested in vascular access surgery.

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Surgery of the chest, 6th edition

David Sabiston and Frank Spencer, Philadelphia, 1995, W.B. Saunders, 2174 pages.

This is the sixth edition of a book which has been one of the most authoritative texts on the treatment of all cardiac and thoracic disorders since it was first published in 1962 with John H. Gibbon, Jr., as editor. The present coeditors, David C. Sabiston, Jr., and Frank C. Spencer have continued to provide the up-to-date status of the cause and management of all thoracic surgical problems. Frequent updates have been necessary during the explosion of knowledge and technical advances that have occurred during the past 33 years. This edition includes many authors who have been responsible for or participants in advances that are still taking place.

Most chapters include a short section on the history of the original description of the disorder and its treatment. All chapters are accompanied by an exhaustive reference list. In addition, however, there is a selective bibliography with most chapters that draws attention to the "classic" available references. These are of special aid to