

BOOK REVIEWS

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Concise vascular surgery

Crawford Jamieson, James Yao; London; 1997; Chapman & Hall Medical; 339 pages.

The strengths of this book are in the technical descriptions, the illustrations, and the experience of the principal authors, which shine throughout. Every modern vascular surgeon should be fully conversant with the techniques described. As the editors quite rightly point out, it is also an excellent guide for those doctors less fortunate in their access to tertiary medicine, especially in remote, rural, and emergency settings. It is an excellent basic text for open classical vascular surgery. It is recommended as part of a standard library for training institutions and operating theaters that engage in vascular surgery. It should be read by all trainees in this discipline. It is also a useful reference for those trained in vascular surgery to refresh their techniques.

There are occasional repetitions because of the overlap of topics among different authors, which reveals that variations do exist in techniques to achieve the same end and demonstrates the strength of personal expertise. In the main it is not a book on a variety of techniques for an operation. In the context of a good training manual and guide for the less experienced, this serves to avoid confusion. The sections on trauma, basic techniques, and common open vascular operations are very good. The didactic nature does not expose weaknesses in addressing the modern direction of vascular surgery. Attempts have been made to address this with chapters on angiography, intraoperative ultrasound, imaging techniques for vascular surgeons, chemical sympathectomy, and endoscopic transaxillary thoracic sympathectomy. The chapter on angiography and imaging for vascular surgery is excellent. It stops short of any endovascular intervention, such as the basic techniques for balloon dilatation and stent placement. It very briefly recognizes but fails to address hybrid operations, which combine endovascular and open techniques, which are so useful. The section on intraoperative angiography is a credit to a pioneer but starkly emphasizes the deficiency and the poor equipment available for many vascular operating rooms. No other vascular interventionalists would consider a procedure complete without image verification at the time, and this chapter should stimulate the discipline of vascular surgery to improve. Similarly, technology has moved on for chemical sympathectomy, which many would now consider better performed with CT guidance. Technology has also moved on for thoracoscopic sympathectomy. Thoraco-ports do not need valves because the lungs will collapse, and the installation of carbon dioxide under pressure with a Beres needle might better be replaced with blunt dissection entry into the thoracic cavity and an open flexible port.

In reading I lingered on certain key maneuvers that may only be important to me, but which I make a point of

passing on to trainees, for example, the exposure of the internal carotid artery by dividing the sternomastoid branch of the occipital artery and moving the hypoglossal nerve forward, which is taught as a deliberate act. I question how many of us have ever dislocated the jaw for carotid endarterectomy, noting that focus on techniques squeezes out discussion and sometimes perspective.

Vascular surgery is undergoing a metamorphosis. Techniques are developing rapidly, and many are controversial. Any book takes a finite time to compile and publish, and there must be an appreciation that in a rapidly developing field it is difficult to be completely up-to-date. This is a book on established techniques for training and guidance. It attempts to recognize the direction being taken by vascular surgery.

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Hemostasis and thrombosis

Thomas DeLoughery; Austin; 1999; Landes; 212 pages.

A practical understanding of bleeding and coagulation disorders has become essential for the many medical disciplines involved in the management of patients with vascular disease. *Hemostasis and Thrombosis* is intended to be "a resource for both the common and uncommon hemostatic problems that health care providers often face in clinical practice." As a compact, spiral-bound handbook, it is designed to be a guide for the diagnosis and management of patients with hemostatic and thrombotic disorders.

The first chapter summarizes the basics of coagulation (including descriptions of both the classic coagulation cascade and the "new" or "in vivo" model of coagulation), fibrinolysis, and platelet function. Simplistic diagrams complement the text in this chapter, making this fundamental topic understandable at a basic level. The following chapter concisely reviews the laboratory evaluation of hemostasis and thrombosis, providing essential background concerning both routine and special testing.

Building on this foundation, the remainder of the text is divided into two sections: first, a review of the diagnostic and management approach to the bleeding disorders and then thrombotic disorders. A general diagnostic approach to the bleeding disorders is provided followed by dedicated chapters on hemophilia, von Willebrand's disease, other inherited and acquired bleeding disorders, disseminated intravascular coagulation, liver and renal disease, cardiac bypass, immune thrombocytopenia, and

thrombotic microangiopathy. Clinically useful information concerning nonblood products and transfusion therapy for bleeding disorders is also provided. The remaining portion of the book reviews the thrombotic diseases including deep venous thrombosis and pulmonary embolism; thrombosis in unusual sites; hypercoagulable states; and treatment approaches to cardiac disease, stroke, and peripheral vascular disease. Separate chapters are dedicated to treatment modalities including heparin, warfarin, antiplatelet agents, and thrombolytic therapy. The last two chapters cover bleeding and thrombosis in cancer patients and in pregnancy.

As a handbook, *Hemostasis and Thrombosis* provides essential clinical background on this group of diseases. Especially useful are the chapters on treatment modalities, which include up-to-date information on many of the new antithrombotic and anticoagulation therapies. The chapters are well organized and deliver the information in a concise fashion. Recommended readings are also provided at the end of each chapter for more extensive review. In this regard, *Hemostasis and Thrombosis* should be considered a practical, "quick" reference for those seeking additional information on these disorders; it is certainly not a comprehensive source document.

Clearly, an understanding of bleeding and coagulation disorders has become essential for health care providers involved in the management of patients with vascular disease. This interrelationship is exemplified by the many antithrombotic medications currently available for the management of cardiovascular disease, the different options for treating nonsurgical-related bleeding complications, the use of thrombolysis for acute thrombotic problems, and the role of hypercoagulable states in failed vascular interventional and surgical procedures, to name a few. *Hemostasis and Thrombosis* provides a practical starting point for those who wish to learn more about this area of medicine.

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Oxford textbook of critical care

Andrew Webb, Marc Shapiro, Mervyn Singer, Peter Suter; Oxford; 1999; Oxford Medical Publications; 1384 pages; \$198.50.

The Oxford Textbook of Critical Care, edited by Andrew R. Webb, Marc J. Shapiro, Mervyn Singer, and Peter M. Suter, is a comprehensive and ambitious addition to the burgeoning critical care literature. It is an ambitious text of 1400 pages with 450 authors from 20 countries. In spite of its size it is a concise text. It benefits from the decision by the editors to organize the book into 18 major topics with specialized short monographs from experts in the field. This is a good decision because it renders complex concepts far more accessible than critical care texts

that have lengthy chapters. Particularly strong sections include the Respiratory System; the Neurological System; the Metabolic and Endocrine Systems; Trauma, Burns and Physical Disorders; and Infection and Systemic Inflammation. In addition, there are well-focused sections that deal with perioperative problems and the management of the critical care department with very useful monographs on the most common scoring systems used in Intensive Care Medicine.

Each monograph begins with a highlighted "Key messages" containing each author's most important points that help to focus the reader. In general, the monographs themselves are well written and contain illustrations, tables, and charts that are clear and help to enhance the discussion. A short bibliography at the end of each monograph offers critical references. Overall, this text has an excellent basic science component in each monograph that moves smoothly into common pathophysiologic derangements, specific disorders, pharmacologic support, and therapeutic strategy. Future directions and conclusions are offered where applicable. Overall, this text is an ambitious attempt to add a useful and concise approach to the complicated and complex care of the critically ill patient. This text is especially useful for medical students and residents of all disciplines who rotate in the surgical and medical intensive care units. Additionally, this is highly recommended as a text for practicing physicians and surgeons who have patients that require intensive care unit care and who have an interest in this rapidly expanding field. Vascular surgeons will find many monographs in this text that will help care for the patients with vascular disease. Finally, this is a useful text for the specialist in intensive care medicine both as a reference text and especially as a text from which to draw teaching support for intensive care medicine. This text's utility is further enhanced by its availability on CD-ROM. I feel that it is in the best tradition of The Oxford Medical Publications that this text assumes a worthy place.

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Tissue engineering of vascular prosthetic grafts

Peter Zilla, Howard Greisler; Austin; 1999; R. G. Landes; 621 pages.

This book is coedited by two well-known vascular cell biologists, Peter Zilla and Howard Greisler. Published in 1999, it is a multiauthored compendium on the subject of tissue engineering of vascular prostheses. If the reader/investigator is of the mind that tissue engineering is the way of the future for the genesis of vascular prosthesis (as this author is), then this book is an important acquisition. Its 616 pages contain multiple chapters of reasonably short length by many well-recognized authorities in the field.