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Book Reviews

Cardiac Surgery 3rd Edition, Kirklin/Barratt-Boyes, Kouchoukos, Blackstone, Doty, Hanley and Karp, Churchill Livingstone 2003.

This two volume text, originally authored by John W. Kirklin and Brian Barratt-Boyes, has in its previous editions been the standard reference for cardiac surgeons since its first publication in 1986. Its exhaustive content has served many generations of surgeons and trainees well and this updated edition has been awaited with great expectation. It is noteworthy that many of those responsible for this latest incarnation had trained in cardiac surgery under Kirklins guidance.

In comparison with the previous tome, this edition has been extensively revised and indeed expanded incorporating 55 chapters in two volumes.

The book has initial chapters devoted to general considerations in cardiac surgery such as cardiac anatomy, cardiopulmonary bypass and anaesthesia but also includes a detailed chapter on data analysis and interpretation.

Subsequent chapters focus on acquired heart disease and its surgical treatment concentrating in particular on ischaemic heart disease and acquired valvular disease. Substantial proportions of the text are devoted to the comprehensive description and surgery of congenital heart disease with excellent chapters on Cor Triatriatum and Ebsteins anomaly especially noteworthy.

This latest edition includes new and additional material on the surgery of the pulmonary arteries, systemic veins and in the surgical management of endocarditis. All chapters have been updated in each section and new figures depicting echocardiographic, computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging of the heart are in abundance.

Each chapter is extremely well illustrated with a combination of black and white photographic plates and drawings. Indeed all operative drawings from the second edition have been redrawn for this volume. Each chapter is exhaustively referenced and updated to reflect the latest knowledge in each area. As before, each chapter retains a highly readable style and has comprehensive surgical instructions and details for the practicing cardiac surgeon. The larger number of


authors seems in no way to have detracted from the readability or authority of the previous editions.

There can be little doubt that this revision of Kirklin/Barratt-Boyes Cardiac Surgery remains the definitive textbook to which practising cardiac surgeons worldwide will turn for guidance and information. The material embodied therein is greater in depth and breadth than any other book in the field and its sheer volume is inevitably its only drawback.

The 3rd edition of this classic text retains its place as the gold standard textbook of congenital and acquired cardiac surgery.

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Complications in Vascular Surgery, J.B. Towne and L.H. Hollier (2nd Edition), Marcel Dekker Inc. New York 2004. 272pp., \$165

The vascular surgical community is divided in two camps. There are surgeons who admit to complications, and there are those who feel that hardly ever complications, although they have to treat complications from their colleagues. For both groups, this book, *Complications in Vascular Surgery*, is a valuable asset to their library. Victor Bernard and Jonathan Towne edited the first edition. In this second, revised and expanded edition Larry Hollier has replaced Victor Bernard. The problems and complications described in current volume reflect the complexity of surgical care provided to vascular patients who are afflicted with a variety of associated diseases involving many major organ systems. The editors have invited experienced senior vascular surgeons whose published experience identifies them as experts in the field. It seems regrettable that only US vascular surgeons were invited to contribute, as there are many vascular surgeons around the world who have equivalent, if not greater expertise.

All possible issues are covered. For example, there are chapters on general issues, such as, intimal hyperplasia, hypercoagulable states, healing characteristics and cardiopulmonary complications. On the other hand, specific subjects as complications of thoracic outlet surgery, complications of vascular access and pitfalls of noninvasive vascular testing are covered equally well. There is a significant section on venous disease, with complications of sclerotherapy, vena cava filters and many more.

The most recent and significant changes in vascular surgery have to do with the emergence of endovascular treatments and their increasing use in peripheral vascular surgery. A section on these techniques has been added to this book. This section is not limited to endovascular treatment of aneurysms, but complications of regular angioplasty and carotid stenting are included also.

Overall, the book is very complete, well structured

and easy to read, although the layout is rather old-fashioned. A meticulous index makes it easy to locate any subject.

There are not many meetings, nor many books on complications in vascular surgery. Most physicians are reluctant to discuss complications. Nevertheless, frank and objective appraisals of these problems can lead to more opportune and accurate diagnosis and effective therapy and could point the way to methods of prevention. We can learn from the authors who were brave enough to share their experience, mistakes and complications. It is my opinion that this book should have its place in library of every vascular surgical practice.

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