Book Reviews


This book has 139 American, 4 English, 1 Canadian and 1 Egyptian author. Not surprisingly, therefore, most of the views expressed are those of American vascular surgeons. The book is fairly comprehensive but not completely so, for example, I could not find any reference to thoracoscopic sympathectomy and there is no mention of laparoscopic vascular surgery. There are many short chapters which could be amalgamated into larger areas of interest. There are very few colour illustrations and all of these are curiously packed together in the centrefold of the book. It has up-to-date and good references and a novel section at the end, which describes the techniques of open vascular procedures. Unfortunately, there is not a similar area where endovascular techniques are described in the same way. The book contains the usual, and I think unnecessary, chapters on historical aspects of vascular surgery pathophysiology, haemodynamics, computers, outcomes for vascular surgeons, trial design and clinical examination. I am not sure who this book is intended for, but some of the areas are too simple for established vascular surgeons and too complicated for juniors starting off their training. The authors should state who this book is aimed at. Nevertheless, it provides good coverage of vascular surgery and not withstanding some of its omissions, manages to get the subject into one volume. It does have a good deal of endovascular material in it, but not sufficient to reflect present day practice. For example, carotid angioplasty is only given a short section at the back of the relevant chapter. Perhaps this simply reflects the time it takes to produce a book like this.

P. Bell
Department of Surgery,
Leicester Royal Infirmary,
Leicester, UK

Comprehensive Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

This book is clearly an attempt to be international in view of its editorial makeup. There are 83 authors: 25 European, 55 from the USA and 3 from Canada. There are a number of new names in the author list. The editors have tried to make the book different in that it has an attractive layout with each chapter starting with a key point box which will be helpful to many readers. Colour is used liberally and there are many colour illustrations and pictures with excellent line drawings and sufficient up-to-date references. The CD ROM of illustrations which comes with the book will be useful to many readers. The aim of the book is to link endovascular and vascular specialists but again does not say who the book is intended to be read by. The book contains the usual, and to my mind unnecessary, chapters on history, vascular biology, haemodynamics, etc. These are of course repeated in every vascular text book and I often wonder why. The chapters cover most of the usual topics which incorporate open or endovascular treatments as we know them and endovascular treatment is handled separately. The book includes details on how to carry out various procedures and this is done fairly well but there are omissions, which in a book this size is inevitable. The editors have chosen to include haemodialysis access which I think is a good idea in view of the fact that vascular surgeons are involved in this practice. There are important omissions, for example looking in the index for graft infection will lead the reader nowhere as there is no discussion of this very important topic. However, the book is not meant to be comprehensive.

Comparison

Comparing these two books is not easy but I think they will satisfy different readers. The book by Hallett and
his co-editors is much more attractively produced than the one by Hobson and his co-editors with its modern bullet point approach, lots of colour and excellent line drawings, all of which the younger trainee will find attractive. Although it is not as comprehensive as Hobson it does have a CD in the front which goes along with its modern image.

The book by Hobson and his colleagues is 500 pages larger, more comprehensive, contains many more references and is produced along more classical lines. This book might be for the senior trainee or qualified vascular surgeon who likes to keep most of vascular surgery in one volume. It is not totally comprehensive but almost so. Various chapters could be erased from both books in my view, the usual ones on history, vascular physiology, haemodynamics, etc. all of which can be found elsewhere.

P. Bell  
Department of Surgery,  
Leicester Royal Infirmary,  
Leicester, UK