

BOOK REVIEWS

John M. Porter, MD, Book Review Section Editor

Sundt's occlusive cerebrovascular disease, 2nd ed.

Frederic B. Meyer, Philadelphia, 1994, WB Saunders, 576 pages, \$150.

Thor Sundt is a hero of mine, and when the first edition of his book, *Occlusive Cerebrovascular Disease*, appeared in 1987, I read it with admiration and sincere appreciation of the experience, honesty, and often unique approaches of this remarkable neurosurgeon who brought modern cerebrovascular surgery to the Mayo Clinic. The newly published second edition is a worthy successor.

Sundt and his team performed more than 3000 carotid artery operations before his untimely death in 1992, and he asked his colleague and former student, Fred Meyer, to update the volume. Meyer has done a fine job in this second edition with the introduction of a number of new chapters, and significant revision of others. His tribute to Sundt alone is worth your reading and is a thoughtful reflection. However, the essence of the original book, written by Sundt, remains untouched.

The special chapters include Sundt's description of the techniques of carotid endarterectomy (detailed and masterful), external endarterectomy, prevention and management of complications, surgery for recurrent stenosis, exposure of the distal internal carotid artery, and surgery for carotid artery aneurysms, nonatheromatous disease, and carotid artery body tumor. These clear and detailed surgical descriptions are beautifully illustrated by John Desley's excellent drawings, as well as by complimentary operative photographs.

Several other chapters are outstanding, including those devoted to the pathology of occlusive disease and carotid and vertebral artery dissection. Throughout the book, written entirely by staff members of the Mayo Clinic, you have the feeling you are being taught by experts, with vast experience and carefully thought out approaches. Although I do not necessarily agree with everything, such as the use of intermittent xenon cerebral blood flow measurements in the operating room environment, one must respect the author's thinking and uniquely large experience.

The weaknesses of the book include an inadequate description of the current roles of noninvasive diagnosis, computed tomography, and magnetic resonance imaging/magnetic resonance angiography, and the excessive space devoted to angiographic images. In addition, apparently as a cost-saving move, the few color illustrations have been moved out of context to the front of the book. I believe this is false economy. More color would have been better, placing the plates where they belong makes them more valuable, and the quality of the color reproductions could be improved on.

Competing volumes with a single approach to carotid

artery surgery include Reginald Lord's, and the beautifully illustrated atlas-like work of Berguer and Kieffer (1993), as well as the classic but now outdated works by Thompson (1968), and by Wylie Ehrenfeld (1970). The multiauthored and authoritative volume edited by Moore (1987) is also a serious contender for your bookshelf space and dollar. Against this competition, Sundt's second edition stands out as a wonderful guide to cerebrovascular surgery for both the beginner and the expert.

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Infections associated with indwelling medical devices

Alan L. Bisno, Francis A. Waldvogel, Washington, D.C., 1994, ASM Press, 410 pages, \$72.

This book is a concise review of the cause and treatment of infections associated with indwelling vascular materials. Each chapter has a concluding paragraph emphasizing future goals and expectations. Topics include infections associated with central nervous system shunts, heart valves, pacemakers, prosthetic joint replacements, and prostheses of the eye, urinary, and female genital tracts. A chapter reviewing pulmonary infections associated with endotracheal intubation and tracheostomy is particularly well written and provides excellent references of pertinent clinical studies. Two chapters deal extensively with staphylococcal infections affecting medical devices and is an important reference source for this type of bacterial infection. Only half of one chapter deals directly with a topic of particular interest to the vascular surgeon, namely the diagnosis and management of vascular graft infections. The authors succinctly delineate differences between early and late graft infections in terms of bacterial causes of these infections. These few pages are a concise review of the pertinent literature but are not particularly intriguing to the vascular surgeon who has at least a modest understanding of the literature concerning vascular graft infections. Another chapter reviews infections associated with hemodialysis and provides useful information to the vascular surgeon who deals with these problems. Overall the book emphasizes prevention and treatment of infections associated with medical devices of many organ systems of the human body. Although the book is full of interesting facts and abundant references, it is most useful for infectious disease specialists and not vascular surgeons.

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