

treatment of vascular disease and whether or not surgeons have a particular interest in endovascular work a vascular surgical textbook would not be complete without covering this field. Chapters on radiological therapeutic techniques include angioplasty and stenting. These are concise and inevitably less extensive than the comparable surgical chapters, but are nevertheless well referenced for those wishing further information. A new chapter on angio-access is included and this also includes complications of arterial and venous catheterisation and their management.

The main body of the book covers individual arterial problems and their surgical management. These include aneurysms, lower limb ischaemia, neurovascular conditions of the upper limb, visceral ischaemia, renovascular disease, extracranial cerebrovascular disease, portal hypertension and arteriovenous malformations, with separate sections on venous and lymphatic disorders. Lymphatic disorders are rare and few vascular surgeons have a wide experience of their management. A well balanced section is presented on the pathophysiology of lymphoedema, clinical evaluation and non-operative and operative management of lymphatic disorders.

The chapters on venous disorders are less exhaustive than those on arterial disease. Non-invasive investigation, although discussed, excludes important investigations such as foot volumetry, and there is little on the management of recurrent varicose veins which forms a significant part of vascular surgical practice in Europe.

In general the text is well laid out with clear illustrations and well reproduced angiographic photographs and includes a small number of colour plates of colour flow imaging. It is well indexed and referenced making it an ideal reference textbook. Fine details of operative techniques are not generally included as these are included in the companion atlas.

In summary this is a comprehensive reference textbook which compares favourably with other textbooks of similar price in this field and would provide an ideal companion to both vascular trainee and experienced vascular surgeon. Inevitably there is an American bias in an all American textbook. This does not detract from its value but contributions from leading experts in other parts of the world would undoubtedly make it even more authoritative.

Practical Peripheral Arterial Thrombolysis

Authors: J. J. Earnshaw and R. H. S. Gregson
Butterworth Heinemann, Oxford, 1994.
207 pages, £35.

The purpose of this book—practical arterial thrombolysis—is thoroughly embedded in introductory chapters dealing with the mechanism of fibrinolysis, the clinical aspects of acute arterial ischaemia and the metabolic effects of reperfusion injury and brought to a close by a survey of adjuvant drugs and a critical outlook upon the state of the art.

Thanks to a logical arrangement of the sequence of chapters, a comprehensive survey of arterial thrombolysis is conveyed. By including various clinicians to write on a similar subject the reader is enriched to the point where the wealth of anecdotal experience can become at times burdensome and some overlap is noted. The spirit in which the book is written is one of sincerity and caution. There are numerous illustrations depicting the thrombolytic process as a sequence of events which are of adequate quality. However there are a few figures that leave something to be desired (for instance Fig. 5.1, 2, 8 and 10; 7.10; 10.5, 6 and 7). This reviewer would have suggested a different set-up with a clear-cut separation of intraarterial and intraclot thrombolysis for elective cases *vs.* thrombolysis for acute thromboembolic occlusions. By restricting their references to English and American literature and omitting a side-glance eastwards the authors have missed developments on the European continent where the relevant catheter therapy began.

The chapters dealing with the mechanisms of fibrinolysis and the clinical aspects of acute occlusive disease are well written, also the chapter on metabolic effects of reperfusion. Intravenous thrombolysis is flawed with so many complications and rewarded by so little success that it would be proper to dismiss this kind of treatment. Chapter 4 elaborating the Guildford protocol and experience is rather lengthy, partly due to overlap of information given elsewhere. The chapters on radiological techniques is very much to the point and concise but drawings might have been helpful for the uninformed reader. Chapters 6 and 7 ("graft thrombolysis" and "avoiding the complications of thrombolysis") are of considerable practical help, whilst the scholarly chapter on thrombolytic agents—although informative—shrinks away from clear conclusions. Chapter 9 dwells on the important subject of adjuvant drugs, so often questioned by those concerned with all aspects of thrombolytic treatment. Intraoperative thrombolysis is a technique with a promising future ably dealt with in the

following chapter. Concluding this book, Mr Earnshaw deplores the paucity of controlled randomised studies. It can be said that some of these shall not be forthcoming for ethical reasons. This reviewer can offer proof that thromboembolic occlusions of the popliteal trifurcation are dealt with so successfully, in terms of cost-benefit ratio, that treatment is relegated to the surgeon only when there is no radiologist available.

In summary this book is profitable to vascular surgeons, interventional radiologists (who will receive some clinical teaching on the way) and angiologists. Due to its scope, a comparison with similar books in the English literature is difficult. The relatively high price (by English standards) is probably due to the low number of copies of this edition and the need for so many figures.

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Review of Vascular Surgery

Editor: W. C. Krupski

W. B. Saunders Company, 1995.

170 pages, £23.

This new textbook is a companion for the 4th edition of *Vascular Surgery*, edited by Robert D. Rutherford and from the same publishing house. It takes the form of multiple-choice questions on selected areas of vascular and endovascular surgery with pages of answers and explanatory text following each section. Each combination of correct answers and related explanations is accurately cross-referenced to the relevant pages of the parent textbook. The explanatory paragraphs have apparently been specifically written for this book and are not simply reproductions of extracts from *Vascular Surgery*.

All major areas of vascular surgery are covered with appropriate emphasis being placed on each topic or technique. At first glance it would appear that this small textbook could stand alone without reference to *Vascular Surgery*. However, there are several occasions when not all possible answers to a particular question are covered in the explanatory notes. On every occasion the mystery is quickly solved by consulting the referenced pages in the parent textbook.

Review of Vascular Surgery has a clear layout which will be well accepted by anyone who is accustomed to multiple-choice self-assessment texts. It is aimed at vascular surgical trainees preparing for higher examinations and certainly contains enough information

for that purpose. In addition, the low price of this unique book will ensure a wide readership for whom the only drawback will be the necessity for access to the considerably more expensive 4th edition of Rutherford's *Vascular Surgery*.

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Advances in Vascular Surgery Volume 2

Editors: A. D. Whittamore, D. F. Bandyk,

J. L. Cronwett and N. R. Hertzner

Mosby Yeto Books, 1994.

285 pages

It was a great pleasure to review "*Advances in Surgery*" Volume 2. Progress in the diagnosis and treatment of vascular diseases needs to be communicated to surgeons as soon as possible for the benefit of patients. This multi-author book gives an overview of the current state of knowledge on peripheral vascular disease and its management. Most chapters are written by authors who have an international reputation.

Parts I and II concern infrainguinal arterial disease, including *in situ* saphenous vein bypass and the use of alternatives e.g. arm veins, lesser saphenous vein or composite prosthetic-vein grafts. Knowledge of the treatment of infrainguinal arteries disease is particularly useful, because the results of reconstructions in this region are often unsatisfactory. Distal reconstructions to the dorsalis pedis artery or to tibial arteries require improvement in many vascular centres. Particular attention is devoted to the technical details of vessel clamping to avoid thrombosis. The importance of careful vein harvesting is also emphasised because vein bypass is still the best material when compared to prosthetic or composite grafts.

Part III describes a very important and quickly developing branch of vascular surgery; endovascular procedures of the infrainguinal region. The authors present technical details and results of PTA and stenting with discussion of complications. Consideration is also given to the financial aspects of therapy, comparing PTA and bypass costs. Cost of therapy should not determine the method of treatment particularly when a patient's health or life is at risk but it cannot be ignored.

Part IV (Miscellaneous) contains a chapter on carotid restenosis which largely concentrates on methods of detection and analysis of aetiological and pathological considerations. The role of residual stenosis, intimal hyperplasia and atherosclerotic origin is