Spinal trauma: an imaging approach

Edited by V. N. Cassar-Pullicino and H. Imhof

Pp. 240. New York: Thieme, 2006. ISBN: 3-13-137471-3. €119.95.

This is a book written by radiologists for, I suspect, a radiological audience, but any clinician managing patients with injuries to the spine would do well to look through it; there is much to be reminded about. This reviewer has always been blessed by having excellent consultant colleagues in orthopaedic radiology, but he knows that many of his surgical colleagues do not have that luxury.

There are 17 chapters occupying just over 200 pages. The last two chapters, "Neuropathic Spine" and "Trends in Spinal Cord Regeneration", could have been omitted with no discernible loss. The chapters on spondylolysis and discovertebral overuse injuries might also have been omitted as these are not acute traumatic problems. The chapter on "Therapy - Options and Outcomes", is too short to be of any practical value to the orthopaedic spinal surgeon, although it might be of some educational interest to general radiologists.

Having said that, the great value of this book is its profuse illustration with diagrams of traumatic scenarios variously imaged. Indeed, all could learn or revise the subject simply by studying these excellent pictures.

The editors have assembled eminent contributors in this field and display every permutation of spinal injury. If there was a copy in the hospital library, it would be useful for staff of every grade to dip into now and again.

R. Dickson

Classifications and scores of the shoulder

Edited by P. Habermeyer, P. Magosch, S. Lichtenbergi

Pp. 297. Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 2006. ISBN: 3-540-24350-X. £54.00.

This pocket-size reference book is more readable than the title might suggest. The authors have diligently addressed not only the classifications and scoring systems frequently used in shoulder surgery, but also those of historical significance. Given the potentially confusing nature of the subject matter, the layout of the chapters, each dealing with a particular pathology or anatomical area, is helpful. The use of illustrations and photographs reproduced from the original papers has led to some indifferent images.

The more complex areas of shoulder surgery, for example, the 18 classifications of instability, are presented in a readable and understandable manner. The authors make no call for the use of one system or another. Having read each as originally described, without the time consuming process of finding the original papers, the most appropriate system may be selected by the reader.

This book will be of value to shoulder and elbow surgeons as a reference work and should form a basis upon which clinical research may be conducted.

P. Reilly

Wrist surgery, tricks of the trade

Edited by M. E. Baratz, M. P. Rosenwasser, B. D. Adams, S. H. Kozin

Pp. 256. New York: Thieme, 2006. ISBN: 3-13-139011-5. €119.95.

This book is clearly aimed at senior trainees who have an interest in hand and wrist surgery. It aims to fill the gap between standard orthopaedic texts, that tend to have little on the wrist, and the very specialised multivolume books on the distal part of the arm. The four authors have kept to a rigid style so that one cannot distinguish between them. Each chapter is arranged with the general headings of indications, technique, post-operative care, and alternative procedures. Under each of these headings, the authors give both pitfalls and pearls of wisdom. It is a very practical book, with each chapter devoted to a single operative procedure. Diagrammatic illustration is clear, if a little simplistic; I regret the paucity of radiographs.

The authors are all from the USA, but one assumes the book is intended for a wider audience. This might explain why, throughout the book, there is a mixture of metric and imperial measurements. It would make for far easier reading if there was consistency, or at least imperial measurements with the metric equivalent to follow. Instruments are referred to using their eponymous names. For those outside of the USA, where the names are not in familiar use, this can lead to some confusion as many are not illustrated.

Having decided upon a procedure, this book provides a recipe on how to perform the operation, to avoid common errors and to supervise the rehabilitation. As a practical guide to wrist surgery, including the tips and tricks from the surgeons' experience, this book succeeds. Minor criticisms aside, it is priced well within reach of the interested trainee; I judge it to be a wise, personal purchase.

B. S. Goldie